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Newly called Mesa Arizona Temple Presidency

Photo by John Power, Biltmore Photo

Their hope is that all who come to the temple will be able to enjoy the peace and joy available there, say the recently called presidency of the Mesa Arizona Temple--(l to r) Neil Christensen, first counselor, his wife, Linda, assistant to the matron; R. Gordon Porter, temple president, his wife, Susan, temple matron; and J Brent Hatch, second counselor, and his wife, Renae, assistant to the matron.

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Photo by John Power, Biltmore Photo

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CORPORATE OFFICE
9436 W. Lake Mead Blvd.
Suite 11-M
Las Vegas, NV 89134
www.ArizonaBeehive.com

PUBLISHER
The Beehive, LLC
Amie Taylor
Info@ArizonaBeehive.com

EDITOR
Cecily Markland
480-507-6570
Editor@ArizonaBeehive.com

ADVERTISING
Linda Hartmann
Regional Sales Mgr.
(480) 844-9328
BeehiveSales@mac.com

GRAPHIC DESIGN
Leslie Thompson

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Stephanie Abney
Jill B. Adair
Kristie Fairbanks
Evelyn Hendrix
Jackson Ross
Tina Scott
Linda Turley-Hansen
Cindy R. Williams

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New Leaders Called to Preside Over Mesa Arizona TEMPLE

Photo by John Power, Biltmore Photo

R. Gordon Porter, the 20th president of the Mesa Arizona Temple, succeeded Daryl H. Garn and is serving with his wife and temple matron, Susan Porter.

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

The Mesa Arizona Temple is recognized as significant among latter-day temples. This was reinforced recently when R. Gordon Porter and his wife, Susan, after being called to serve as the new Mesa Temple president and matron, met with President Henry B. Eyring in the Church offices in Salt Lake City.

"President Eyring mentioned to us that President Monson considers two temples as real icons. One is the Salt Lake Temple, the other one is our temple here in Mesa."

This, President Porter says, made him feel even more that his new assignment is "a sacred and trusted calling."

"Temple work is vital work. It's wonderful work," he says.

President and Sister Porter, members of the Estate Groves Ward, Mesa Arizona Citrus Heights Stake, are succeeding President Daryl H. Garn and his wife, Irene. The Porters are thrilled to be serving together, noting that they have enjoyed several such opportunities in the past.

President Porter was born in St. Anthony, Idaho, and, as a young man,

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New Mesa AZ Temple Presidency
Continued from pg. 3

served a mission to Japan. Then, in 1980, he was called to return to Japan to serve with Susan, as mission president of the Japan Kobe Mission.

"We have seven children—six boys and a girl—and we took all seven with us. The oldest was just turning 16 and the youngest was 11 months old," President Porter says, adding, "That three years in the mission field solidified our family; that prior mission experience melded them together so they are now very close."

All seven of their children now live in the Mesa area and the Porters have 27 grandchildren and three on the way.

President and Sister Porter served together in Japan again when he was called as president of the Japan Missionary Training Center. He has also served as an Area Seventy, Mesa Regional Family History Director and bishop and had been a stake patriarch for four years prior to being called as temple president.

Sister Porter was serving as a patriarch's scribe and as a ward Primary pianist prior to being called as the matron of the Temple. She previously served as stake Relief Society president, ward Relief Society president, and ward Young Women president.

Of her new calling, Sister Porter says, "I love it, but it's unbelievable. It's such a sacred trust we've been given. It's overwhelming when you realize everything that goes on in the temple."

She adds, "It's such a huge learning curve. There's so much more than even what we learned as ordinance workers."

She says, already, one of her favorite things is associating with the ordinance workers and the temple employees.

"We have enjoyed getting to know the workers and employees. They are so supportive and kind," she says.

In the new temple presidency, serving as President Porter's first counselor is Neil Christensen and his wife, Linda, is an assistant to the matron. The Christensens, of the Power Ranch Second Ward, Gilbert Arizona San Tan Stake, have four children and 20 grandchildren. They say they have derived a love for the temple by attending frequently.

"Throughout our lives we've attended on a regular basis," Sister Christensen says.

When President Christensen served as a mission president in the California Riverside Mission in 2002 through 2005, they enjoyed seeing the missionaries learn to love the temple. "Every six months we would take them to San Diego to the temple, then six months later, to the Los Angeles Temple," Sister Christensen says. "Then we had the privilege of watching the Redlands Temple built in our mission and participating in the open house and being there every night."

Photo by John Power, Biltmore Photo

First counselor in the recently called Mesa Arizona Temple Presidency is Neil Christensen, and Linda, his wife, serves as an assistant to the matron.

President Christensen says, when he served as a bishop, he saw the influence the temple could have on individuals.

"It has a tremendous impact on people's lives as they repent and come to the temple," he says.

They recall one convert couple who "both had tattoos and the man had a braid down his back, but they were converted and were so thrilled with the

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JAN BREWER, Governor

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JOE ARPAIO, Sheriff

"Senator Pearce has given law enforcement the tools to do the job President Obama refuses to do – secure our border. This includes authoring SB1070, requiring voter identification at the polls, and making it illegal for employers to hire illegal immigrants."

TOM HORNE, Arizona Attorney General

"Russell Pearce is a strong fiscal conservative who has led the effort in the State Senate to cut wasteful spending & balance the budget. This recall is wrong."

DOUG DUCEY, Arizona State Treasurer

"Russell has consistently supported accountability in the classroom and school choice. He is a great supporter of education and making sure each child receives a quality education."

JOHN HUPPENTHAL, Arizona Superintendent of Public Instruction

"I have personally known Russell Pearce for more than 40 years. He has made an honest effort to improve education and make Mesa a safer place to live. As Senate President, Russell led the charge to pass a truly balanced budget without borrowing or accounting gimmicks. Russell Pearce played a key role in legislation that will lower taxes and bring quality jobs and prosperity back to Arizona."

GARY PIERCE, Chairman, Arizona Corporation Commission

"The recall effort is supported by liberal extremists who oppose our values and are abusing the electoral process. The Arizona Republican Party is standing united with Russell Pearce and opposing the recall."

TOM MORRISSEY, Arizona Republican Party Chairman

"Russell Pearce is a fiscal conservative who has worked hard to help Arizona balance its budget. This recall is nothing more than an effort to undo the election of November 2010 and should not be supported."

STEVE COURT AND CECIL ASH, District 18, Arizona House of Representatives

It's wrong for Arizona and supported by liberal extremists who oppose the rule of law.

Paid for by Patriots for Pearce

New Mesa AZ Temple Presidency
Continued from pg. 4

opportunity to go to the temple."

"This is just one example of why we need to accept anyone who comes to the temple," says Sister Christensen. "If they have tattoos, if a woman comes in pants…if they have a recommend, we let them in."

"In the scriptures we're told that attendance at the temple gives you power; it strengthens you and gives you the ability to resist evil. Attending the temple most definitely brings peace and helps answer all worries and concerns you may have in life," Brother Christensen says.

He says an important part of the equation, however, is to read and study.

"If you will put the knowledge in your head, if you will learn from talks and from reading, you will be prepared to hear different things and to have a new experience at the temple," he says.

The second counselor in the new Mesa Temple presidency is J Brent Hatch, with his wife, Renae G. Hatch serving as an assistant to the matron. The Hatches are members of the Groves Third Ward in the Chandler East Stake. They have five children who all live in the area, and nine grandchildren.

In 2005, the Hatches served as full-time senior missionaries in the Arizona Mission. "We lived at home, but would spend eight hours a day in the mission office," he says.

He was serving in the presidency of the Arizona Tempe Mission when this new calling was extended. "I went from serving in a black coat to a white coat," he says.

The Hatches say they have a "deep love for the temple," adding that in order to gain such a love and testimony of temple work, "You have to go."

"Until you will make the sacrifice to go on a frequent basis, the temple will still be the temple, but it will be a temple without meaning to you," he says.

President Hatch tells of his great great grandfather, who was converted through an encounter with Joseph Smith and who then went on to help with the construction of the Kirtland Temple.

"Every time I read the account in the Doctrine and Covenants of the Savior standing on the breastwork of the temple, I wonder if, by chance, he stood on an altar my great great grandfather helped construct," President Hatch says.

Sister Hatch says she has always loved to go to the temple and she hopes to help instill that same love of the temple in others.

"I want to help promote the idea that the temple is a special place as much as I can and try and keep things calm and let the Spirit come," she says. She hopes to show love to the workers so they, in turn, will love the patrons.

Photo by John Power, Biltmore Photo

J Brent Hatch, second counselor in the recently called Mesa Temple Presidency, serves with his wife, Renae, assistant to the matron.

"People from all walks of life come to the temple. We need to love these people and let them come," she says.

President Porter agrees. "We want people to come and to feel the peace of the temple," he says. "It is the most sacred place, but it is also a very cheerful, joyous and happy place. A lot of problems in life can be sorted out and solved while in the temple."

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Blind Software Engineer and Musician Sees with Spiritual Eyes

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Photo by John Power, Biltmore Photo

Renee Carter, of the Kimball Stake, hasn›t let the loss of her sight discourage her or dissuade her from accomplishing much as a musician, software engineer and geneaologist.

Renee Carter, of the Glenview Ward, Kimball Arizona Stake, remembers well the day she received the devastating news. Renee was in the fifth grade when she heard a doctor callously claim that her eyesight was deteriorating and she would eventually be blind.

"I remember thinking, 'I'm not going to cry about this,'" she says.

True to that initial response, Renee has found ways to triumph over her adversity, to accomplish more than many sighted people and to contribute her unique talents to bless the lives of others.

She admits she has had a few sad moments. When she was diagnosed with the hereditary disease, retinitis pigmentosa, the doctor opened a drawer and offered her handfuls of candy.

"I thought, 'How could this make up for the news I just got?'"

She balked at the idea of having to give up reading, as that was one of her favorite pastimes; and, in the beginning, she questioned, "Why does it have to happen to me?"

But, because of a spiritual experience, Renee recognized long ago that this is one of her tests in life, and that knowledge has given her great strength. Renee has learned to see life in an entirely new and positive way.

"Sometimes you mourn, but what you are supposed to do is to feel the pain and then go on," she says. "A lot of people are a lot worse off than me. It's really a matter of relativity."

Renee rarely considers life's challenges, but instead, she counts her blessings.

"I'm blessed to have the gospel and to have pioneer ancestors on both sides of my family. I'm blessed to be born to parents that had the gospel."

Renee attended the blind school in Ogden, Utah, for three years, and learned Braille there, then went back to public school for high school. She attended Brigham Young University, graduating in Food Science and Nutrition and served a mission to Washington D.C. A few years after her mission, Renee went back to school and earned a master's degree in Computer Science.

She was introduced to her husband, Mike Carter, through mutual friends over the telephone.

"It was love at first phone call," she says.

A few months later, they were married, and she moved to Arizona and began working as a software engineer for Freescale Semiconductor, where she has been for the past 23 years.

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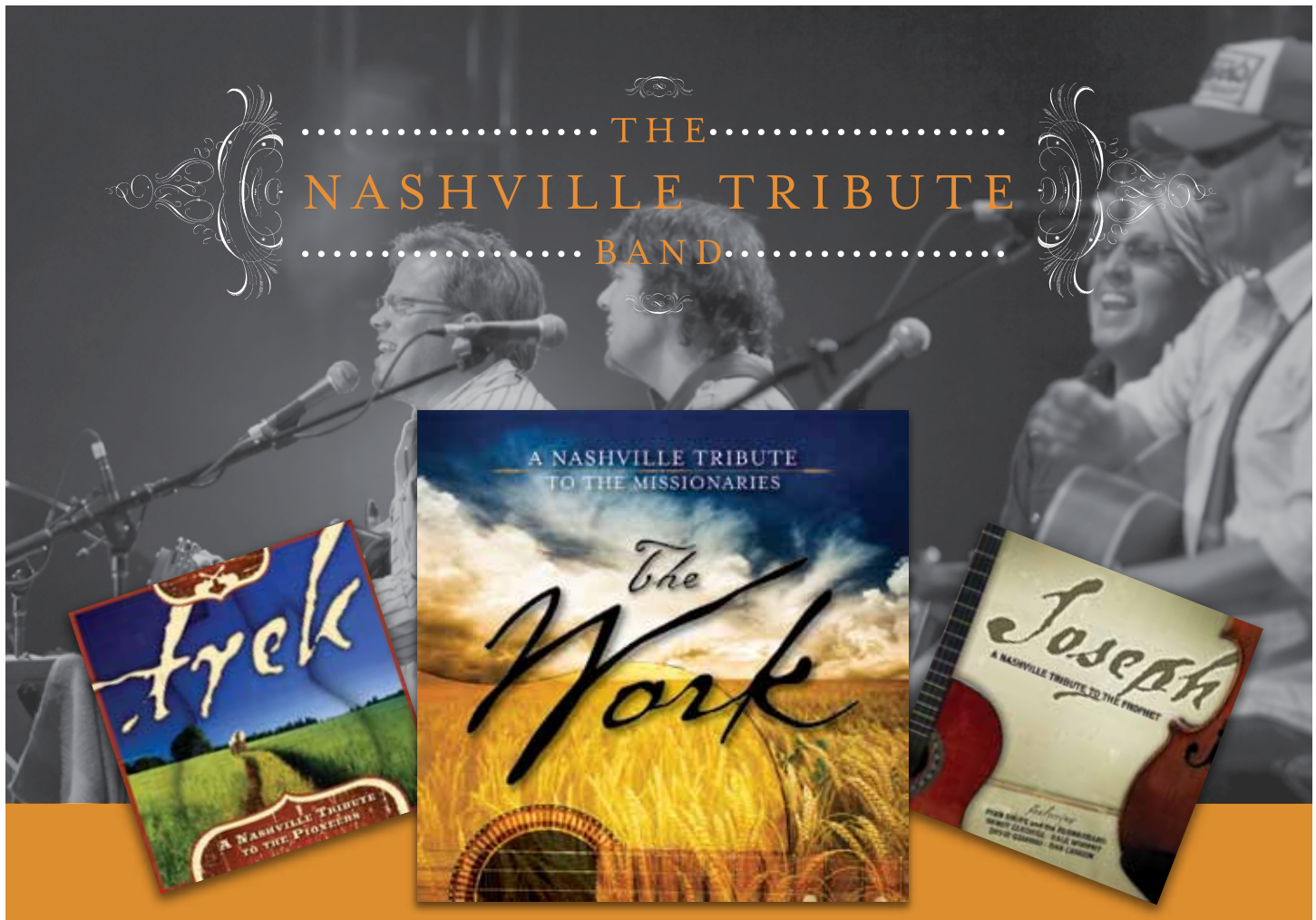

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Many are Blessed, One Life at a Time

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

About nine years ago, in the wake of the devastation caused by Hurricane Mitch, Danny Ainge and Ross Farnsworth took their families on a service vacation to Honduras.

"We were shocked by the conditions, but fell in love with the humble people and immediately went to work figuring out how we could make a permanent difference in Central America," says Ross, of the Thayer Park Ward, Mesa Mountain View Stake.

They knew it had to be more than just "handing out fish," Ross says. "It had to be studied, specific and measured."

They considered the immediate needs, but also looked at trends and traditional pitfalls to progress in that and other third-world countries. They also looked at what was already being done to help; and they began sharing their ideas with others.

Now, nine years later, the result is a powerful nonprofit organization called One Life At A Time (OLAAT), an organization that is making a marked—and

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Photo courtesy of Ross Farnsworth

Jose Membreño and Kency Echeverria, two young men in the pre-missionary program run by the Arizona-based nonprofit, One Life at a Time (OLAAT), stand in the office that was recently painted by OLAAT students and service vacationers from the United States.

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Many Are Blessed
Continued from pg. 8

measurable difference.

"We are helping individuals become leaders. This is not just family building, or Church building. This is nation building," says Brett Rydalch, OLAAT Executive Director and a member of the Stonecreek Ward, Queen Creek South Stake.

"We have educated just over 2,000 students, sent over 800 missionaries, contributed over 150,000 hours of service, built and placed about 1,500 grow boxes, acquired over 1,500 jobs and created many more, and prepared at least 450 for university studies," Ross says.

Based on recognized needs, OLAAT includes a program "instituted to help direct and prepare young people for missions." By participating in service projects young people qualify and "earn" the things that typically keep many from being able to go on a mission, such as clothing, medical and dental expenses, luggage and passports. Without the OLAAT program, many of the 800 young adults OLAAT has helped would never have served missions.

OLAAT also recognizes the need to break the cycle of poverty by preparing young men and women to be employable. In these countries, where a 30 to 40 percent unemployment rate is common, OLAAT's Business Institute of Technology (BIT) provides specific training in practices and principles required for success in the marketplace and life. Missionaries who return from an honorable mission can be assured that they will have a seat in a school that has like-minded students who want to climb out of abject poverty by gaining skills in computers, English, accounting and marketing. BIT students also attend seminars on interviewing, paying tithes and offerings, and creating a five-year realistic life plan. OLAAT currently has three schools in Central America.

OLAAT also offers an entrepreneurship program, developed by Steve Gibson and Brigham Young University. It is a 12-month course that includes classroom lectures, case studies, team projects, seminars and service projects. "Students are taught how to find micro-enterprise opportunities within in their own communities," the OLAAT website states.

As the organization has grown to include a five-member volunteer board of directors and an executive team made up of 10 active members, the opportunities for participation have also grown, as have the success stories.

"We will always need help and resources," says Ross.

U.S. families can volunteer for "service vacations" and many individuals are seeing the importance of donating to this work.

With many of the initial "growing pains" out of the way, OLAAT is seeing some amazing results.

Recently, volunteers and members of the executive team visited the three schools in Central America for "three days of planning, training, supporting, and listening."

At an area leadership meeting they attended, Ross says a number of "bishopric members and stake presidencies came up to us and reminded us of their beginnings at our schools. One handsome young man approached me to say that he had studied at BIT in the second year. At that time he was selling bread on the streets to survive with his wife and new baby. As he stood in front of me with his beautiful grey suit and his pink monochrome tie, he humbly said, in English, that he is a bishop and has 40 employees in his telecom-related business."

"We don't claim to make the man successful," Ross continues. "We simply provide him a hopeful start in life."

To learn about family service vacations or other opportunities to join OLAAT in the life-changing efforts to break the cycle of poverty, visit www.olaat.org.

Blind Software Engineer
Continued from pg. 7

Renee was unable to have children of her own, but she enjoyed raising step children.

"I've always wanted to live a full life and be productive," she says. "It's always been my desire to stay busy."

Her busy-ness includes her work at Freescale Semiconductor, as well as the volunteer work she does as a Worldwide Support Missionary and assisting individuals to do genealogy research.

"I work on the phone lines answering calls from all over the United States. I also teach blind people how to use New Family Search," she says. "It works really well with a talking computer."

In addition, she says, "Music is my hobby." With an electronic keyboard, she creates arrangements "that sound like instrumental pieces. I record each of the 16 tracks, so it sounds like flute, clarinet and all of the other instruments."

She has produced five CDs, including "Lullabies for Angels," which she created with her neighbor and friend, Julie Petersen.

"Music is such an uplift," she says, "and then there's the genealogy. I just love genealogy. I do research for others on familysearch.org. At work, I write software and I love my job. There is always something new to create. I get paid for doing something I enjoy doing."

"I have the perfect job for me," she continues. "I'm actually really blessed. It's—all good. I live a full, busy, exciting life and good opportunities have come my way," Renee adds. "I have the freedom to do things I want to do and the privilege to do them."

Most of all, Renee says she has something more important than physical sight.

"I have spiritual vision and the gospel," she says. "I learned long ago that I have the most important vision in the world—I know about Jesus Christ."

For copies of Renee's CDs, contact her at Renee.Carter@cox.net or call 480-250-1199.

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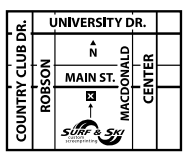

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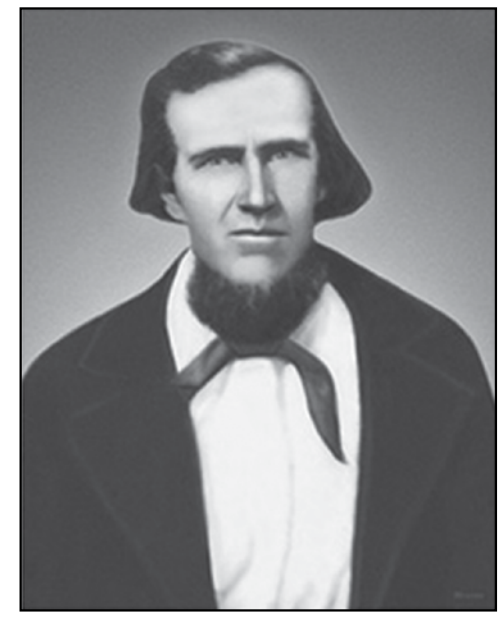
Saints in Arizona: A Countdown to the STATE'S CENTENNIAL

Following in the Footsteps of Jacob Hamblin



Jacob Hamblin

By Jill B. Adair
The Beehive

The names of many LDS pioneers are remembered in communities throughout Arizona, but one stands out in the state's history: Jacob Hamblin.

Arizona historian James H. McClintock wrote in his 1921 book, *Mormon Settlement in Arizona*, that he had found himself "unable to write the history of northernmost Arizona without continual mingling of the name and the personal deeds of Jacob Hamblin."

In the more recent work, *Jacob Hamblin: A Modern Look at the Frontier Life and Legend of Jacob Hamblin*, author Hartt Wixom says that McClintock didn't go far enough in extolling the influence that Hamblin had in Arizona: "Hamblin's explorations and activities went well beyond 'northernmost Arizona,' southeasterly beyond the Grand Canyon region all the way to the New Mexico border," he writes.

"His influence on Arizona is profound," says Larry Burk, president of the Jacob Hamblin Legacy Organization (jacobhamblin.org) and a great, great grandson who lives in Mesa. "He was one of the most important trailblazers and pioneers not only in Arizona but throughout the Southwest."

He believes there are no other historical accounts of the establishment of peace between Native American people and early pioneer settlers to compare to the stories of those within Hamblin's influence.

Hamblin, who was born in Ohio, joined the Church in 1842, moved to Nauvoo, Illinois, and eventually went west with the Saints.

According to historians, President

Continued on pg. 11

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Photo by Scott Adair

A painting of Jacob Hamblin by Lone Wolf as a "Missionary among the Indians" was displayed at the front of the Eagar chapel until the building was razed in the 1980s. Historical records note that in 1878 the Round Valley Ward was established with Jacob Hamblin as presiding elder and he was a member of the Little Colorado Stake presidency.

In Jacob Hamlins's Footsteps

Continued from pg. 10

Brigham Young sent Jacob Hamblin and others to begin missionary work among Native Americans in the 1850s.

Hopi leader Chief Tuba and his wife were among the earliest Hopi converts. They spent several months in pioneer settlements of southern Utah. Later, Chief Tuba invited some of the families to settle near his village of Moencopi; the pioneers named the place Tuba City in his honor.

According to Hamblin historians, the list of his accomplishments is long. He discovered the crossing on the Colorado River where Lee's Ferry would be established and laid out a practical route to areas along the Little Colorado River, eventually allowing for the safe entrance of pioneers into Indian territory and for the colonizing of Mormon settlements throughout Arizona.

Researchers also believe that he was among the first white men to encircle the Grand Canyon and it is documented that he later made several trips to the area with John Wesley Powell, acting as guide and adviser to ensure the party's safety. Powell wrote in his journal that Hamblin spoke their language well, had great influence over the Indians in the region round about and was considered their friend.

"He is a silent, reserved man, and when he speaks it is in a slow, quiet way that inspires great awe," Powell noted.

Perhaps Hamblin's greatest accomplishment was that he tirelessly promoted peace among new neighbors.

Brother Burk explains that Hamblin did what others at that time refused to do with the Native Americans: He learned their language, he gained their trust and when there were problems he went to talk to them to work it out.

According to his own journals, Hamblin attributed much of his success to his conviction that he had received from the Lord an assurance that he should never fall by the hands of the Indians, if he did not thirst for their blood.

That assurance proved to be true several times when his life was in jeopardy. It is apparent in historical records that he was generally regarded as an honest and trustworthy man.

Hamblin died of what was recorded as malarial fever in Pleasanton, New Mexico, on August 31, 1886. His remains were later buried in Alpine, Arizona, with this inscription on the grave marker: In memory of Jacob V. Hamblin, born April 2, 1819, died August 31, 1886. Peacemaker in the Camp of the Lamanites.

Hamblin historians agree that although his influence in Arizona was vast, his accomplishments have been greatly forgotten. The only well-known landmark named after him is Jacob Lake in northern Arizona and many history books fail to mention even his name.

Editor's note: On February 14, 2012, Arizona will celebrate its centennial. In this and other articles in past and coming issues, The Beehive pays tribute to the influence of Latter-day Saints in the state.

A Message from State Senator Russell Pearce ...

I have dedicated my entire life to public service – first as a Maricopa County Deputy Sheriff who was shot in the line of duty, then as the North Mesa Justice of the Peace and now as a member of the legislature. I was born in Mesa and I share and promote the values of our great community: freedom, excelling schools, vibrant economic growth, job creation, balanced budgets, strong law enforcement and secure borders.

I am proud of my legislative record of limited government and living within our means. As the President of the Senate, I ushered through the first truly balanced budget in five years – no gimmicks and no new borrowing. I have been named 'Champion of the Taxpayer' by Americans for Prosperity and 'Hero of the Taxpayer' by the American Tax Reform.

Together with Governor Jan Brewer, we enacted the innovative 'Arizona Competitiveness Package' that is our roadmap for putting Arizonans back to work. I continue to fight for education excellence and choice because our children deserve no less.

I have always done what I have promised you I would do. I am honored to serve our community and you. I respectfully ask for your vote.

Sincerely,

Russell

Russell Pearce
State Senator

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Prayer, Faith, & a Blessing
sustain Wiltbank family during Wallow Fire

By Jackson Ross
The Beehive

For the Wiltbank family in northeastern Arizona, the Sprucedale Guest Ranch is more than just a business.

"Carrying on the Sprucedale tradition has always been my dream," said third-generation owner Whitney Wiltbank, a member of the Sierra Ranch Ward, Queen Creek South Stake. "The ranch has been in our family for over 70 years, helping families from across the country and all over the world make lasting memories."

A CPA by winter and cowboy by summer, Brother Wiltbank grew up serving guests at Sprucedale with his siblings, Faye, Billy, JJ, Stephanie, Emer and Tiffany. "I feel so blessed to take Sprucedale to another generation with my wife and little family."

Throughout the family's ownership, the ranch has overcome many challenges, from economic uncertainty to natural events. However, none of them compare with the dark days of June 2011, when the Wallow Fire threatened everything the family has worked for.

"On the first day of the fire," Brother Wiltbank recalls, "the Forest Service warned us there was a blaze, but said that it was over 10 miles away and assured us that we'd have at least three days' warning if it got close."

That turned out to be an overly-optimistic assessment.

"A few days later, I got back from a trail ride and noticed that firefighters were swarming all over the ranch. The chief came up to me and said that we had 15 minutes to get out."

The fire, which started as a small blaze near the Bear Wallow Wilderness in northern Greenlee County, would eventually scorch over 520,000 acres of forest in northeastern Arizona, making it the largest wildfire in state history. The Wiltbanks, their staff and guests were among the first residents to be evacuated.

"We had fire on both sides of the road when we drove out," Brother Wiltbank says.

The next few days were full of anxiety and apprehension.

"We weren't sure what had happened to the ranch," he explains. "We didn't know whether it was saved or not."

In spite of the worry and fear, the family was comforted by an inspired blessing Brother Wiltbank had received the day before. "We received an assurance that the ranch would be protected prior to knowing that the fire was a real threat. I didn't realize what the Lord had done until later."

To everyone's relief, the blessing was fulfilled. Two weeks after the fire swept through Sprucedale, Brother Wiltbank was escorted into the ranch to see what was left. "Even though the fire was just a few feet away from us, we didn't lose a single cabin or a single horse. The fire even stayed in the undergrowth around the ranch. The Lord spared Sprucedale."

Brother Wiltbank believes they were blessed and the ranch was spared, in part, because of the family's determination to make Sprucedale Ranch a special place where families can be strengthened.

"We want this to be a family-oriented ranch. We believe strongly in the *Family Proclamation* and want the ranch to bless the families that come here, whether they are members of the Church or not."

Thanks to the family's faith and the Lord's blessings, the ranch survived the largest fire in Arizona history and will be able to continue fulfilling its motto—*Sprucedale: Where Families Come Together*.

For more information about Sprucedale Guest Ranch, including its location and how to make reservations, go to www.sprucedaleranch.com.

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Author shares insight about

Blacks and the Priesthood

By Jill Adair
The Beehive

Keith Hamilton believes there are no coincidences where God is concerned.

At a recent fireside at the Tempe Institute he told of meeting the LDS missionaries when he was a college student in North Carolina in 1980 and his subsequent conversion.

Brother Hamilton, who was BYU's first black law-school graduate, is a Utah lawyer and author of *Last Laborer: Thoughts and Reflections of a Black Mormon*. He calls it a "doctrimonial"—part autobiography, part treatise on blacks and the Priesthood.

When he first saw the missionaries on the college campus, he wondered what they were selling. He invited them in only because it was hot and they were sweating. Besides, his grandmother had taught him never to refuse anybody preaching Christ, so he listened and agreed to let the missionaries return.

In a later visit, they taught him about the eternal nature of families. The topic was especially personal for Brother Hamilton. He had long wondered if, after the resurrection, his mother and father would recognize him as their earthly son.

He refused to believe the doctrine at first, but after one of the missionaries bore a powerful witness, he agreed to pray about it for himself, but only to "his" God and not theirs.

"God's message to me was short and simple, but undeniable," he said. "I had no burning in my bosom and no audible utterance was heard. But within my soul I felt this unmistakable truth from him: 'Those two young elders are my true messengers. I sent them to you. Follow them.'"

That was enough for him. Although myriad details had yet to be addressed, he knew the course he was to take. Within three weeks he was baptized.

Photo by Jill Adair

Following a fireside he presented at the Tempe Institute on June 5, speaker Keith Hamilton (left) is greeted by ASU student Terrence Taylor.

In the years since, he served as a full-time missionary, a bishop and branch president. He began his research into the issue of blacks and the priesthood to help two members of his ward when he was a bishop in San Francisco.

He recalled being a confused young man who had lost both his mom and dad before age 14 and his "life was going downhill fast." Later, he left boarding school in Virginia, lived with an aunt in North Carolina and decided to go to college. "Those decisions set my course," he said.

He explained that in the history of mankind, there were always restrictions on who held the priesthood. "God never gave all of his children all the opportunities at the same time, even at the time of Christ.

He hopes his book can help people who may see the issue as a stumbling block. "I think it will help people come to a better understanding," he said.

Last Laborer: Thoughts and Reflections of a Black Mormon is available at LDS bookstores or at www.lastlaborer.com.

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GATEWINGS

Provides Tools for Turning Sorrow into Happiness

Photo courtesy of Steve Brinton

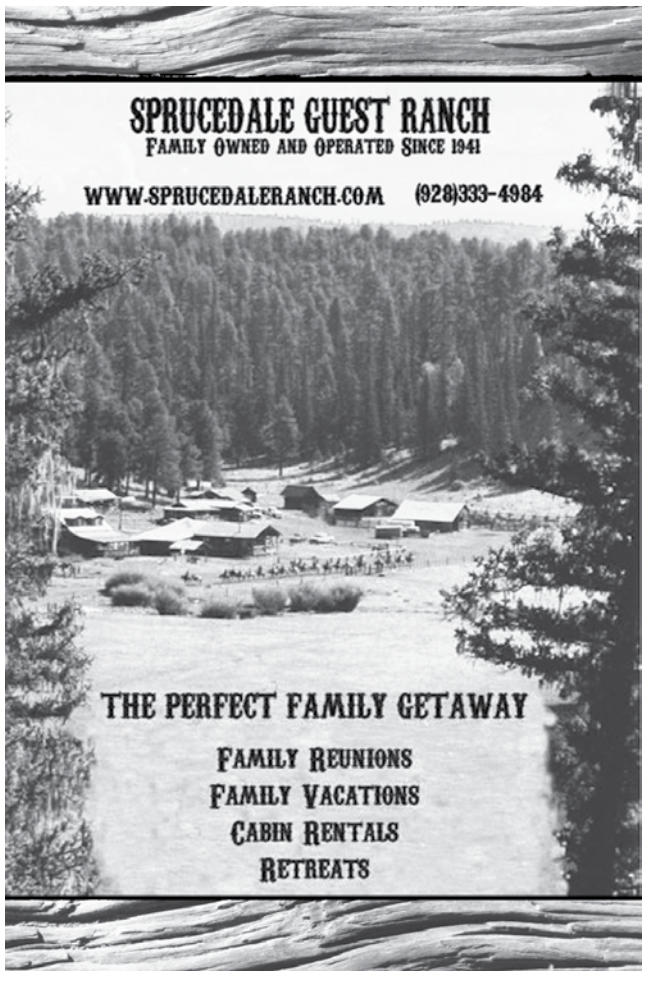
After working as a team and discovering ways to deal with the grieving process in their own lives, Nancy Genys and Steve Brinton have compiled a workbook and two seminars to share with others effective tools and skills for healthy grieving.

Continued on pg. 16

By Stephanie Abney
The Beehive

Out of the depths of loss and grief, Nancy Genys found a way to overcome her sorrow and look forward to each new day. Now she shares what she learned with others. A member of the Pioneer Ward, Gilbert Highland Stake, Nancy says, "In a four-year period, we lost our oldest son, youngest daughter, my father and my grandmother. My husband also lost his job. There were other heartaches too. I learned that all loss is painful and it is easy to feel confused and defeated even though we have the gospel."

Nancy turned to her trusted friend and thera-



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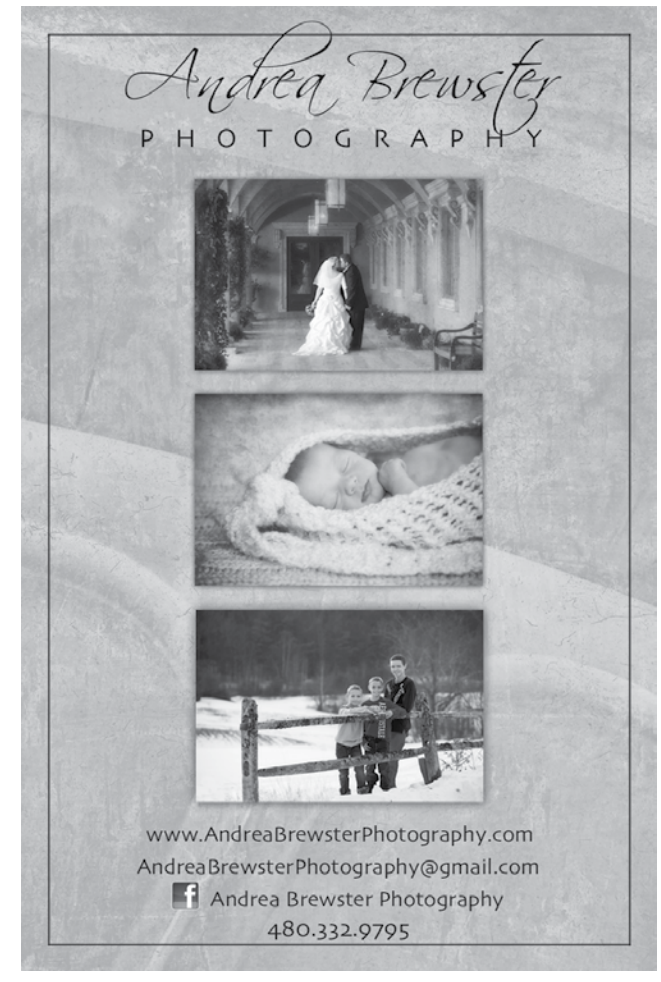

PROMPTING
Leads to Investigation of the Church

By Cindy R. Williams
The Beehive

Photo by John Power, Biltmore Photo

Larry and Kathy Percy ultimately joined the LDS Church after following up on a card found in a Reader›s Digest and looking through the Yellow Pages for a church they could relate to.

In early 1979, Larry Percy had the feeling that he and his wife, Kathy, and their children should join a church.

"This feeling came to me that it would be better to join a church before something such as death came to one of our immediate family members instead of after," says Larry.

Larry put it on his "to do list." He tore out the church section from the Yellow Pages, planning to call ministers until he found one their family could relate to.

Then, while on a flight in July 1979, Larry found a card from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in a Reader's Digest. Larry filled it out and mailed it.

Back home, Larry called Alan Kent, a good friend and recent convert. A few days later, Alan brought two missionaries to visit.

"When I saw them I wondered what on earth they could possibly teach us—they were so young," Kathy says. "The most important thing they taught us was to have faith and trust in Heavenly Father. We learned how to pray individually and as a family. It seems funny now, almost 32 years later, but it was hard to pray together as a family at first."

When asked to commit to baptism, Larry says, "I was questioning for a sign. The Elders directed me to Alma 32 and asked me to read it. They returned the next day and I told them I had my answer. I did not need a sign. I had faith."

A baptismal date was set, but when the Ward Mission Leader was to interview them, most of the family became ill with what they suspected was food poisoning. "The Ward Mission Leader came to our home and interviewed each of us," Kathy says. "Soon after, that same night, we were all well. Our thought was that Satan was trying to delay our plan to be baptized, hoping we would change our minds."

"On Saturday, August 18, 1979, we were baptized," says Larry, "never regretted our decision to do what our Heavenly Father has asked of us."

"We were looking for a 24/7 church—not just one hour a week and then do whatever you want—and we certainly found it," says Kathy.

After their baptism, they found the literature requested from the Church in their mailbox.

Shortly after, in October, Larry's brother died in car accident. "We were stunned. This, then, was the feeling that Larry had had almost a year earlier that something would happen to a close family member," Kathy says. "I remember standing at the graveside wondering how all the people there could deal with such a loss without knowing the true plan of salvation –the plan of happiness."

The couple's testimonies have continued to grow.

"I know beyond any doubt that Jesus Christ is our loving brother who makes it possible for us to return to Him and Heavenly Father. He paid that price we could not pay. He loves us that much. And Heavenly Father sent Him here because He also loves us," Kathy says. "I have read the Book of Mormon well over 30 times and know that it is the word of God. It changes lives. It has the power to bring souls unto Christ just as it brought ours to him."

"My testimony is that the Church is true. … I also have a firm testimony of temple work and know that my ancestors are progressing because of work that has been done here on the earth in temples for them."

Members of the Mesa Skyline Stake, the Percys have five children and 16 grandchildren.

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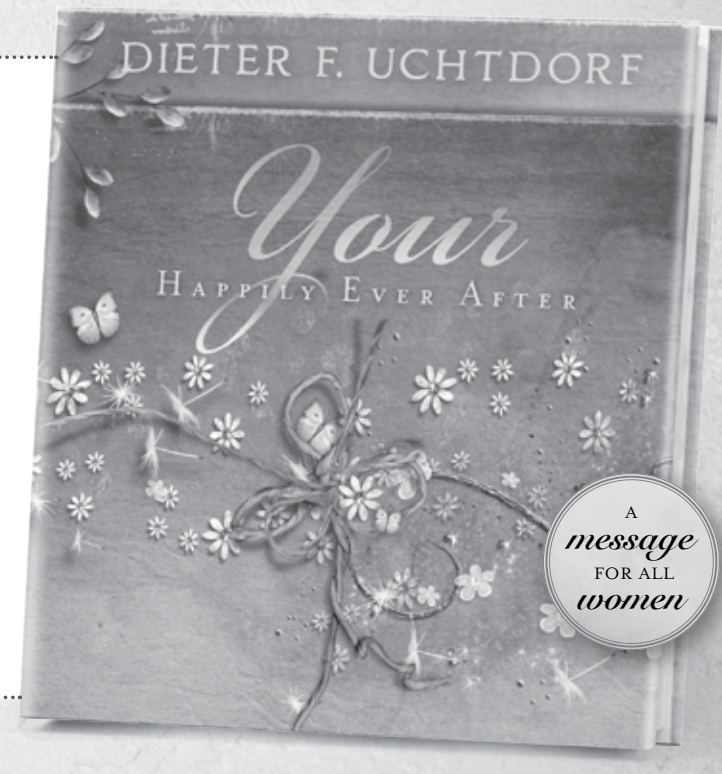

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pist, Steve Brinton, MS/MSW, of the Windrift Ward, Gilbert Stake. Together they worked through Nancy's grief and she began to see "awakenings" and identify tender mercies hidden in her trials. Steve was also able to resolve his feelings of grief over his father's death. They determined to help equip others with tools to get through the rough patches of life.

"Nancy suggested we write a book together to share the steps and tools we identified," Steve recalls. However, they ended up creating a workbook and accompanying hands-on workshop designed to enable others to see their options clearly and to use the information to move from grief to newfound joy.

Thus, "Gatewings" was born. Nancy says, "The word 'Gatewings' is an effort to give wings to the acronym for the words Grieve, Awaken, Thrive and Embrace."

Gatewings provides online resources of helpful information and a blog. They offer two-day workshops throughout the Valley. People who have attended their workshops find they understand the grieving process better.

Chelsea Tibbitts, of the University 2nd Ward, Tempe Arizona University Stake, says, "I was able to see 'what is.' I was able to see the truth and that the truth is all there is. This changed my whole perspective and filled me with peace and understanding. I became enlightened with an understanding of pain and how it is the doorway to our greatest joy."

"People don't know how to grieve," says Brother Brinton. "We give them tools, distinctions and understanding to go through the phases. People have said these workshops have brought about the greatest change in their lives they have ever experienced."

Many participants say they like the fact that no one has to "spill their guts" and reveal details of their heartache to still get effective, lasting results.

Nancy explains the two two-day workshops, saying, "Mourning takes place all the time, but varies in intensity according to the loss. Part one teaches how the 'natural man' reacts when painful things happen. You learn to productively mourn and that the five stages of grieving can be the five stages to awakening. Daily events can be processed in a way that allows you to become forgiving, understanding, happy and at peace."

"Part two, our Awakening Breakthroughs workshop, helps resolve the pain and trauma from your past. It awakens you to an understanding of how your mind works and helps you clear a space for creating a new life story that is joyful, happy, fulfilling and fun."

"This was truly a life changing event. I believe everyone needs this information in order to fulfill the measure of their creation with joy. [I] loved every minute of it," says Peggi Paredes of the Pioneer Ward, Gilbert Highland Stake.

Free downloadable documents on the stages of mourning, how to plan a funeral and other useful topics are available at the website. There are also on-line workshops for those who prefer to heal in the privacy of their own home. For more information, call 480-699-8996 or visit: gatewings.com

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Photo by Linda Bohn

Members of the ad hoc quilt committee of the Pinetop-Lakeside Stake display the Arizona Centennial Quilt that was made as part of the community quilting bee that yielded more than 350 quilts to be donated to local organizations for individuals in need.

Quilting Bee Creates Mountain of Love from the White Mountains

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

The massive White Mountain Community Quilting Bee spanned three days, with quilters working in three locations, completing than 350 quilts that were

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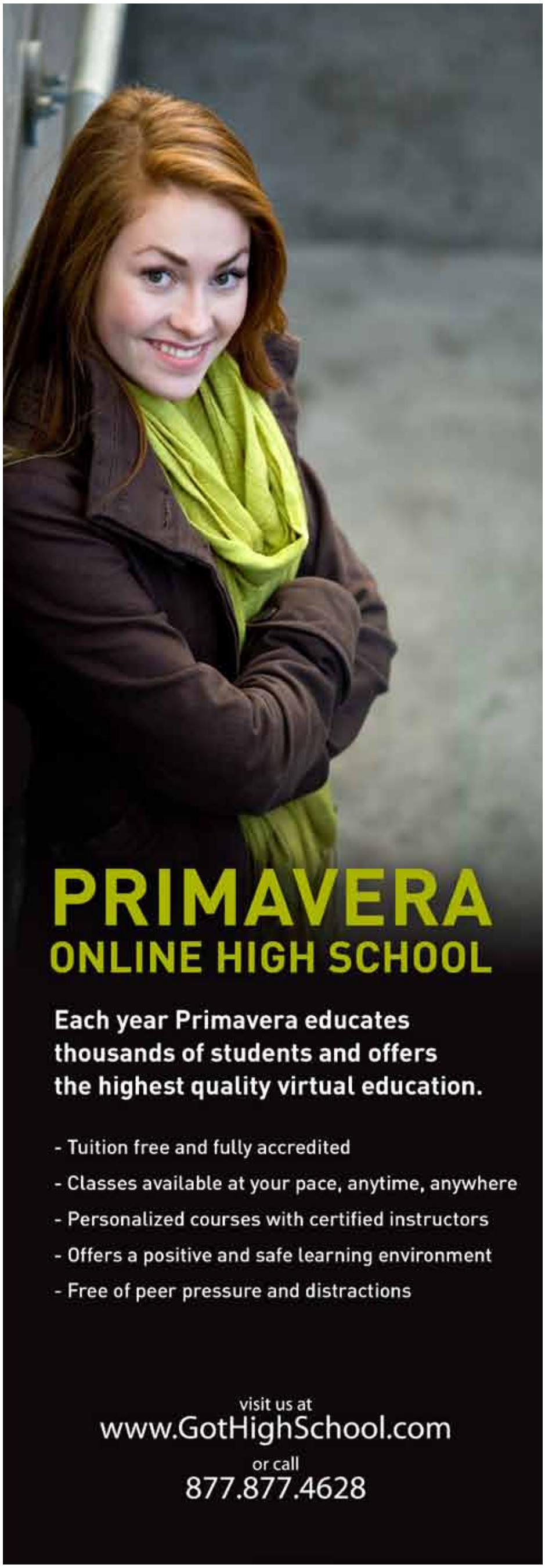
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Quilting Bee
Continued from pg. 19

donated to 10 different agencies for individuals in need.

Sponsored by the Pinetop-Lakeside Stake, the quilting bee began as a simple idea. Linda Bohn, Woodland Lake Ward humanitarian specialist, says, "The original idea was to do something for the stake Pioneer Day."

She thought a quilting bee would be a fun way to reinforce a pioneer skill. However, recent talks by President Thomas S. Monson and Henry B. Eyring during Arizona's Regional Conference and in April General Conference added a new dimension to that idea.

"I remembered them talking about a day of service and how to plan for that," Linda says. "I started thinking, why couldn't we involve the entire community?"

She wrote up a plan, submitted it to the Stake Relief Society President, Carol Short, who then presented it to their Stake President, Steven Shumway.

"He gave us an enthusiastic go ahead," says Linda.

A committee was formed, with Linda and Susan Halls as co-chairs, along with approximately 15 others, including three quilt specialists—Virginia McBride, Peggy Biggs and Joyce Powers—as well as representatives from each of the wards.

"We started out with a goal of completing 100 quilts," Linda says.

"One hundred quilts connected to Arizona's celebration of 100 years, so we planned to do 100 quilts in three days," she says. "The slogan became '100 Quilts for Arizona's 100 Years.'"

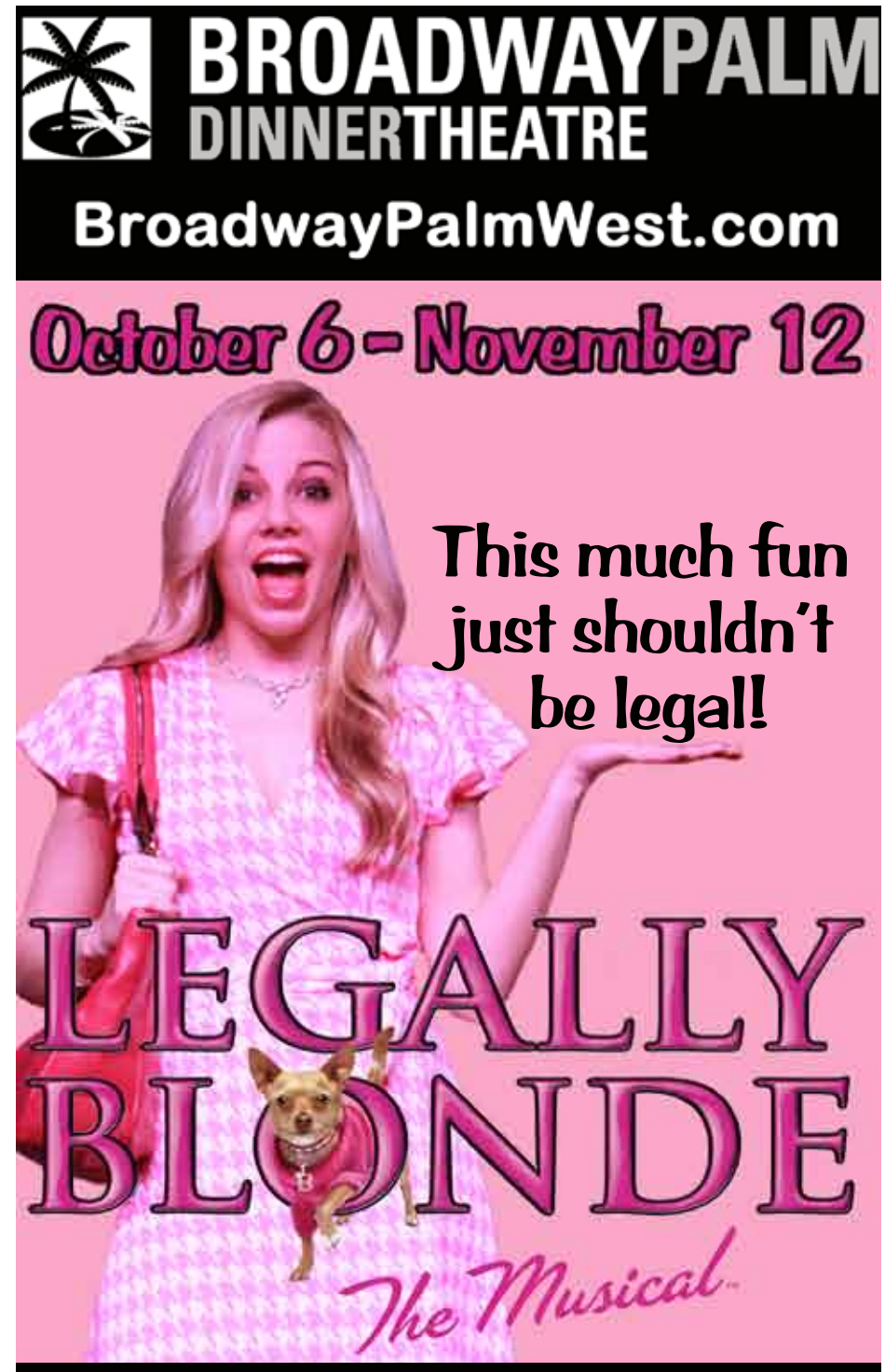
They scheduled the three buildings in the stake and planned for the event to run three days, July 18 through 20 from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. each of those days.

The event was promoted throughout the community—on radio, tv, newspaper and magazines and with posters and flyers distributed through businesses and at local events. A website and Facebook page were created for the event.

During the two months prior to the event, the committee received several donations that helped offset costs, while other individuals helped prepare the quilt tops to be tied or crocheted blankets to be donated. The committee contacted local agencies to determine their need for quilts.

"We had more than 1000 hours of service in the three days of the event," says Sister Bohn, "and that doesn't even touch the number of hours prior

Continued on pg. 21



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Mesa Couple Celebrates 60th Wedding Anniversary

Photo by Kylie Pond

Wally and Cora Burgess, of Mesa, celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary in August, surrounded by family and friends at a party in their honor.

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

A blind date brought them together, and now, 60 years later, Wally and Cora Burgess say they are still living in wedded bliss.

Members of the Dana Ward, Mesa Pueblo Stake, the Burgesses celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary this past August, surrounded by more than 200 family and friends.

Born in Gallup, New Mexico, May 21, 1925, Wallace L. Burgess was going to school at Arizona State College and working for the City of Mesa when he was introduced to Cora Cluff, a native of Pima, Arizona, who was born on October 10, 1930.

He says, as they got acquainted on their first date together, "She told me the man I marry has to take me to the temple."

"I wasn't worthy to go to the temple at the time," he continues. But, what he saw in Cora was more than enough to make him want to change his ways.

"She was different from the girls I dated in high school. She had high morals, high standards; and she didn't wear much lipstick. She was just a fine young lady from a small town."

He says they hit it off from the start.

"We had a lot of fun and were very compatible to each other," Wally says. "And, I love her more every day."

Cora saw good qualities in Wally from the beginning as well.

"It helps if you like the same things," she says, adding they both enjoyed sports—including football, baseball, softball and volleyball. He was also "very persuasive," she laughs.

She adds that over the years Wally has continued to prove his good qualities.

"He really is a very good man, a very good husband."

Together, Cora and Wally raised seven children, six girls and a boy.

"All are married and sealed in the temple," Wally says and their son and six sons in law all served missions.

The couple has 26 grandchildren and 23 great grandchildren.

"Cora is a wonderful mother, grandma and great grandmother," Wally says.

He was committed to quality parenting as well.

"I only had brothers, no sisters. I never heard my father tell us he loved us. I made a vow when I decided to get married that the word, 'love' would be used often in our home."

Cora says she and Wally implemented a few simple measures she believes are essential to childrearing.

"Let your kids know you really love them," she says. "Help them all you can."

They also taught their children how

Continued on pg. 21

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Couple Celebrates 60 Years
Continued from pg. 20

to work.

"We made them work," Cora says. "On Saturdays the kids had assignments to do in the house or the yard."

Wally was committed to helping and teaching other children as well. He was a school teacher for 37 years and the first public school administrator on an Arizona Indian reservation. While teaching in Gilbert he also served as Gilbert's first seminary teacher.

Wally has three master's degrees—in General Science, Natural Science and Administration. An active member of the Sons of the Utah Pioneers (SUP), Wally was area vice president for the state of Arizona for nine years. He also was a member of the Gilbert Town Council for one term.

Both Wally and Cora have been active in Church service as well, and Wally gives Cora a great deal of credit for making gospel living a priority in their home.

"She is very sincere in her beliefs and lives her religion like it should be lived by all of us. That's the way it was in our home," Wally says.

The Burgesses would recommend this approach to others as it not only helped build a strong home but fortified their relationship as well.

"Live a good, clean life, keeping with what the Lord intended us to do," Wally says. "Follow the standards and scriptures of the Church and live them."

"This," he says, "is the key to the success of our home and our 60 years of marriage."

Quilting Bee
Continued from pg. 19

and all the hours the committee members put in."

As part of the event's activities, an Arizona Centennial commemorative quilt was completed. The quilt will be displayed in local town halls, historical societies and libraries and will be entered in the Navajo County Fair.

A total of 368 quilts were completed, more than tripling the original goal. They were donated to Summit Healthcare Hospital, Solterra Assisted Living, Living Hope House, Tall Pines Care and Rehabilitation, Sierra Blanca Rehabilitation, Pinetop-Lakeside Police Department, Lakeside Fire Department, Safe House, County Child Protective Services and the Salvation Army.

Most impressive, perhaps, were the many individual stories of how the project touched lives. "Service was given in the sacrifice of talents, time and funds. All was given with love and devotion to the Lord."

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New Observation Platform Welcomes Visitors at Gilbert Temple Site

Photo by John Power, Biltmore Photo

As shown above, construction of the Gilbert Arizona Temple is underway and families and youth groups are invited to view the progress from an onsite observation platform built for that purpose.

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Construction on the Gilbert Arizona Temple officially began November 13, 2010, with a groundbreaking ceremony presided over by Elder Claudio R. M. Costa of the Presidency of the Seventy.

Since then, Church members in the area and passersby have been curious as to what is transpiring behind the fenced in area on the southeast corner of Greenfield and Pecos roads in Gilbert. Now, people can see for themselves, thanks to an Eagle project by Tyler Barney, 14, and Kai Leonard, 15, of the Pioneer Ward, Gilbert Highland Stake, and the generosity and assistance of many contributors.

For their projects, the Scouts helped to create and set up a viewing and display area at the Gilbert Temple.

In a letter to Priesthood leaders in the area, the temple project manager, Bret Woods, stated, "We hope that the temple site and this visitor area will be a beacon not only to Church members, but to those of other faiths as well."

From the viewing platform, visitors will be able to "safely and unobtrusively view the progress of the temple," he said.

The platform is an 11' by 43' deck, with bench seating and can accommodate fairly large groups of people. It allows for a completely unobstructed view of the south elevation of the temple.

In addition to the viewing platform, an adjacent trailer houses an indoor visitor display area, which includes interior and exterior color renderings and elevations and floor plans of the temple as well as displays of materials used in the construction and aerial and progress photos of. Also included in the visitor area are items designed to promote questions and spark interest among visitors, such as copies of the "Temples" issue of the Ensign, handout materials, Mormon messages videos and pictures of Christ, the First Presidency, Joseph Smith and the Family Proclamation.

Wayne and Pat Miller, of the Coronado First Ward in the Gilbert San Tan Stake have been assigned as the fulltime Church Service missionaries assigned to the temple site and visitor areas. "They are able to answer ques-

Continued on pg. 23

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New Observation Platform
Continued from pg. 22

tions about the purposes of the temples, why we build temples, and specific questions about the Gilbert Temple," says Brother Woods. "The Millers are also available to speak at firesides regarding these same subjects and can bring with them some presentation materials on the Gilbert Temple."

When completed, the temple will have a total floor area of 83,000 square feet. It will be the tallest building in Gilbert, at 82 ½ feet tall, with a spire that will rise to 195 feet and will be capped with a statue of the angel Moroni.

The site will be heavily landscaped with plants and trees, shaded plazas and water features.

Currently, the observation and visitor areas are open Monday through Wednesday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Thursday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and the second and fourth Sundays of the month from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. On Saturdays the areas will be open as scheduled for youth and family groups.

Elder and Sister Miller have been called to serve for two years. Elder Miller says the visitor and information area will not be permanent and there will be no Visitors' Center on the site once the temple is completed.

To contact the Millers, call 480-279-1476 or 480-988-5499 or email patsymillertime@hotmail.com.

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Sunflower ..... Feb. 22

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Arizona Couple Continues

Family Tradition

of Missionary Service and Temple Building

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Photo courtesy of Mark Fenn

Mark and Carrie Fenn, of Benson, Arizona, stand on the site of the Cordoba Argentina Temple, where they will serve as Church service missionaries for the next two to three years during construction of the temple.

For a general contractor who loves the gospel and has looked forward to serving a mission with his wife, a call to assist with the Cordoba Argentina Temple construction seems ideal.

More than that, when you add in the strong family ties to temple building and to that very part of Argentina, such a call becomes even more special—and most certainly heaven sent.

Mark and Carrie Fenn, of the Pomerene Ward, St. David Arizona Stake, left August 1 for Argentina where they will serve for two to three years as the missionary couple assigned to the Cordoba Temple during its construction.

Mark is one of three Fenn brothers to accept such an assignment. Mark's brother, Jim Fenn, and his wife, Patte, from Montana, spent the last two plus years as Church service missionaries during construction of the San Salvador El Salvador Temple. Another brother, David, and his wife, Carolyn, will be going to Rome, Italy, the end of this year to do the same thing there.

"The Church likes to have temple construction missionaries on every job site," Mark explains.

Unlike the project manager, who is an employee of the Church, Mark's role will be "assist and teach and participate with quality control," Mark says. Carrie will serve as "project historian and will document the entire process through pictures and journals." The Fenns will spend much of their time onsite, where they will be available to answer questions about the temple construction and about the purpose of temples.

The Cordoba Temple will serve the five stakes in the city of 1.3 million people. Currently those members must travel to Buenos Aires, which takes 8 hours by car or 10 to 12 by bus.

"The temple will be a little bigger than a small temple," says Mark. "In addition to the temple there will be two other structures—a three-story patron housing building and a complex for the temple presidency."

All of this is adjacent to the already constructed Missionary Training Center.

"It will be like Temple Square of Cordoba," Carrie laughs.

Both Mark and Carrie are thrilled with the call and excited to carry on a Fenn family tradition of missionary service.

Mark's father, Karl Fenn, a missionary in Argentina in the late 1930s and was first to open the work in Cordoba. Later, Karl served as president of the Maracaibo Venezuela Mission and as president of the Mexico City MTC. He and his wife served a temple

Continued on pg. 25

AZ Couple Continues Tradition
Continued from pg. 24

mission to Santiago, Chile.

Mark says, "When a temple was announced in Cordoba, [dad] cried," with joy that the people there would have a temple in their midst. John (mentioned above) served in the North Argentina mission in 1964 and also worked in Cordoba; and, Paul Fenn, of the Pomerene Ward, St. David Stake, served in the Argentina North Mission in 1970 and worked in Cordoba.

"We have had grandparents, nephews and other family members who have served missions in Argentina and South America," Paul says. He adds that also currently serving a mission is their brother, John, with his wife, Jean, serving as directors of the Mormon Handcart Historic Sites in Wyoming.

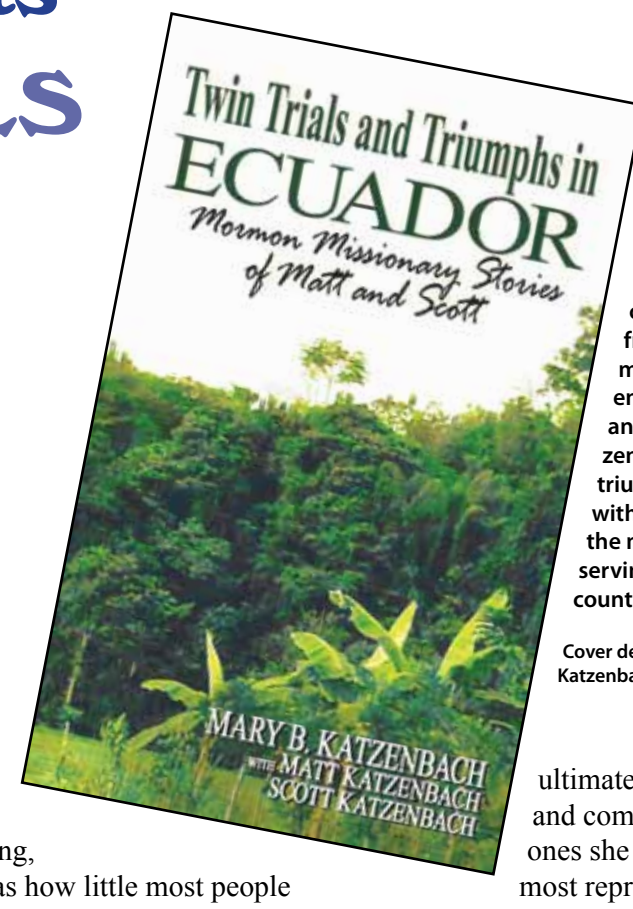
Karl Fenn began the family tradition of assisting with building construction as well.

He was called in 1964 to a three-year mission as a building supervisor and the family spent three years in South America as he supervised chapel construction, including the chapel in Tucuman, Argentina.

Glad to carry on the family tradition, Mark is even happier to carry on the work of the Lord.

"As I become acquainted with the process of what it takes to build a temple, there is no doubt it's the Lord's work," he says

Book Documents TWINS' TRIALS & TRIUMPHS in the Mission Field



In *Twin Trials and Triumphs*, their grandmother, Mary Katzenbach, has compiled stories from the Ecuador mission experiences of twins, Matt and Scott Katzenbach and their triumphs as the dealt with adversity and the many problems of serving in a third-world country.

Cover design by Scott Katzenbach

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

The year was 2007 and the scene was one that has been replicated in countless homes around the world as family and friends gathered for the "reading of the mission call letter." Only, this time, there were two letters, one for Scott Katzenbach and the other for his twin, Matt.

Sons of Brett and Michelle Katzenbach, of the Ahwatukee Second Ward, Tempe West Stake, the twins had never been separated a day in their lives. So, it came as little surprise to some that both letters contained the same exact wording: Both were called to serve in Ecuador.

What was surprising, however, was how little most people seemed to know about this South American country.

"Oddly enough, in a group of sophisticated, well-educated people, not one had any knowledge of Ecuador," writes their grandmother, Mary Katzenbach.

That lack of knowledge, along with a desire to stay connected with her grandsons, prompted Sister Katzenbach to begin collecting their emails, ultimately selecting and compiling the ones she felt were most representative and important to share in a book. The result is *Twin Trials and Triumphs in Ecuador: Mormon Missionary Stories of Matt and Scott*.

"Both were good writers," says Sister Katzenbach, "well qualified to describe significant events and outcomes as they struggle to learn a new language and adapt to a differ-

Continued on pg. 35

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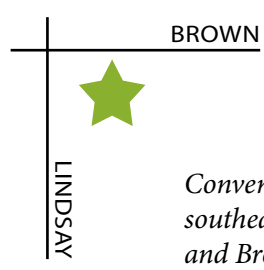

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Young Women Experience Testimony Building and Transformation at this Summer's

Photo by Stacey Hemeyer, staceykayphotography.com

Five hundred young women experience a unique experience of testimony building and transformation at this summer's Time to Blossom young women's conference.

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Take nearly 500 young women, aged 11 to 16, throw in an upscale hotel setting, and expect testimony-building and transformation to occur within five days.

A tall order, perhaps, but that's exactly what happened this summer as young women from across Arizona and from Utah, California and other states took "Time to Blossom."

The Time to Blossom conferences were started by Debbie Forrest and Carla Jorgensen, both from Mesa. Debbie, who, as a BYU student, was co-founder of the BYU Women's Conference, says, "This year's event was even more exciting and successful than our first conference last year."

The young women were entertained by top artists and heard messages from popular motivational youth speakers, including John Bytheway and Brad, Wilcox, etiquette specialists Nanci Wudel and Vivian Cline and body image specialists April Price and Rachel Stewart.

Interactive experiences, time for introspection and a highly successful service project helped the girls put what they were learning into practice, making it a truly life-altering event.

"We want the girls to make happiness a lifelong habit," Debbie says. At the outset, girls received paper blossoms and were told to write down character traits they noticed in each other.

"From the minute they arrived they were focused on positive traits about themselves and others around them," Debbie says.

In addition, each of the girls

Continued on pg. 27

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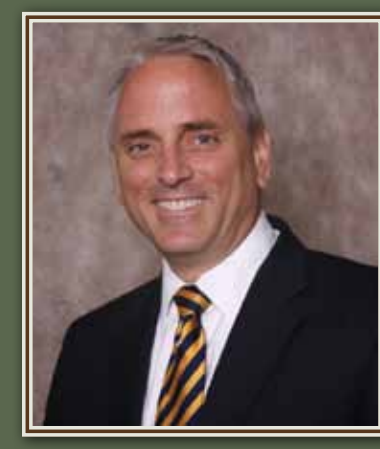

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Tim to Blossom
Continued from pg. 26

received a Time to Blossom book. "Each night they filled their books out, reflecting on what was powerful or meaningful from each speaker," Debbie says. "They used their books to evaluate the day, what they learned and how they were going to apply that to their future self."

They also participated in a huge service project, planned and orchestrated by Francine Waring, Sherry Pierce and Carrie Mannec. The girls brought with them new toys, art supplies and small gifts, which were sorted into age-appropriate groups. The girls wrapped the gifts and decorated more than 150 "Birthday Boxes," complete with a personal note inside. The finished boxes were donated to the Child Crisis Center, where they will be given to children on their birthdays.

"The girls really seemed understand that this box may be all these kids get for their birthdays. This is it. The project helped the girls see how fortunate they are, but also brought a real sense of service to them," Carrie says.

One of the conference presenters, Nanci Wudel says Time to Blossom was like an "explosion of happiness. From scrapbooking, to service projects, to speakers, to spiritual presentations, it was a total package of everything that's positive and uplifting."

Carla says these simple activities and things like learning to create modest wardrobes, coordinate outfits, make wise clothing selections and accessorize inexpensively all combine to create a powerful effect.

"The overarching mission of 'Time to Blossom' is for girls to be able to follow their mission in life, dream big and turn these dreams into reality."

Debbie agrees, saying, "We want them to know they can create a life of joy and happiness. Yes, there will be challenges, but as they stay focused, have faith and confidence in themselves, they can create a powerful future and become and do all they desire."

Most of all, the conference organizers say, "As the girls leave our conference, we want them to be excited, with their vision expanded, knowing they can use their talents and gifts to create meaningful lives. We want them to see themselves the way our Father in Heaven and the Savior see them — and to see others in that same way."

Additional sessions are planned for next summer and Time to Blossom will be introduced into neighboring states.

For details and updates, visit www.timetoblossom.com.

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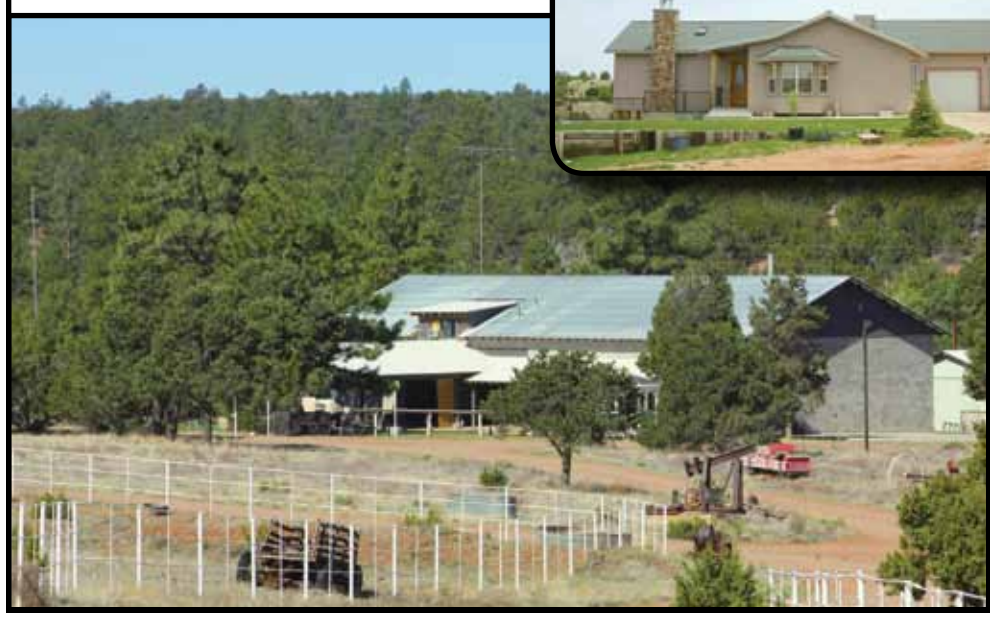

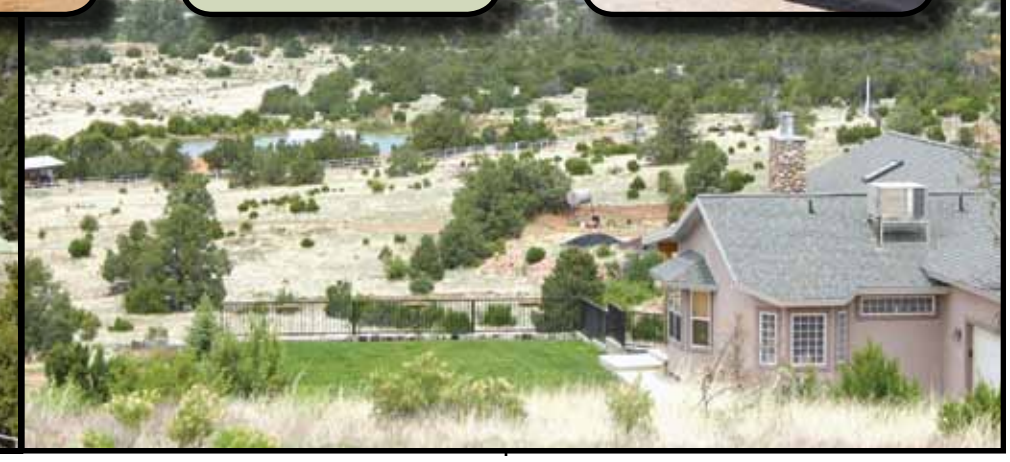

Idaho Couple Serves Seventh Mission at Mesa Temple Visitors' Center

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

For Max and Ramona Romrell, serving missions has become practically a way of life. Called to their first couples mission in 1996, they are currently serving their seventh, this one at the Mesa Arizona Temple Visitors' Center.

The Romrells' missionary experiences have been quite diverse.

"We have never done the same thing twice," he says.

Their first call was to Rostov-na-Donu Russia, a mission that had only been open a year. "We were the office couple, so I served as counselor in the Mission Presidency and my wife was secretary to the Mission President."

Elder Romrell says it was "wonderful," but he thought they were finished—not with missionary work, but at least with serving in Russia.

"My wife is smarter than I am. She said, 'We need to keep reading the Book of Mormon in Russian.'"

Eight months later they were serving in the St. Petersburg Russia mission as Church Educational System (CES) Coordinators. They returned to their Idaho home and, a few months later, submitted their papers to go on a third mission.

"This time we indicated that if we were sent to a foreign-speaking mission, we'd like it to be Russia. We were called to Hungary." Again as CES missionaries, but to provide Institute support.

Each of these experiences fulfilled a dream Elder Romrell had had since high school.

"I didn't get the privilege of serving a mission as a young man," he explains.

It was during the Korean Conflict and only one missionary could be sent per ward. Since his father was the bishop, "It wouldn't have been fair for me to be the one," he says.

When he and Ramona were married, they made a goal to serve a mission together. He worked as a high school math teacher; she was a stay-at-home mom until their five children were grown and then went to work in special ed in the schools.

"We retired in June and were in Russia in July," he says.

After serving in Hungary, they intended to stay home for a while to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with their family and to work as ordinance workers in the Idaho Falls Temple. They returned from the temple one day to find a voicemail asking

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Photo courtesy Max Romrell

Max and Ramona Romrell are currently serving their seventh mission, this one at the Mesa Arizona Temple Visitors' Center.

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Couple Serves 7th Mission
Continued from pg. 28

them to call Church headquarters; and they were soon on their way to Moscow Russia, where he served as the local unit area auditor/cleaner. Under the direction of the Area President, he traveled to Armenia, Georgia, Turkey, Belarus, Serbia and other places to train priesthood leaders on how to handle finances, tithing monies and Church membership records.

"Then," he laughs, "for our next mission we went to prison."

Back in their Idaho hometown, the Romrells served for a year, presenting an addiction recovery program to the inmates at a small local prison.

"We next got a letter from the Temple Department saying, 'We'd like you to go to Nauvoo,'" says Elder Romrell. They were to serve as temple ordinance workers for six months, but the call was extended for another year. The Romrells had only been home for approximately two months before being called to the Mesa Temple Visitors' Center.

Today they can say they have spent more than 1/10th of their lives in the mission field. Since 1996, they haven't been home for more than 18 months between mission calls.

Although leaving their five chil-

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American Night Writers Association

Celebrates 25th Anniversary

By Cindy R. Williams
The Beehive

The American Night Writers Association (ANWA) began 25 years ago with the idea of offering a supportive writing group for LDS women.

The founder of ANWA, Marsha Ward, of the Payson Arizona Stake, says divine intervention had a part in the organization's creation.

"ANWA was Heavenly Father's idea, not mine," she says. "During the '80s I was trying to find support and instruction for my writing endeavors from other writers. I hopped from one writers group to another, but wasn't finding what I needed. Then, over a period of a few months, I met five other LDS women writers. All of a sudden, I was informed in my mind that I needed to get together with them so we could support and strengthen each other."

The first meeting was held October 15, 1986, in the basement of the old Gilbert Public Library. Linda Christensen, Dianne Green, Sarah Hinze, Jan Merkley, Peggy Shumway and Marsha Ward attended.

"Although the women came together as strangers, the Spirit of the Lord blessed the meeting and when it ended two hours later, a sisterhood of writing had been formed, one that nourishes and supports LDS women writers," Marsha says.

One of the first members, Peggy Shumway, of the Gilbert Arizona Stake, says, "Our main purpose was to support and encourage each other, something that wasn't difficult to do since we all loved and admired one another."

The group grew and became known as the Arizona Night Writers in 1990. ANWA began to charge yearly dues to create a monthly newsletter. The name changed to American Night Writers Association in 1998 to accommodate members across the nation.

Marsha says, today, "ANWA helps its members communicate through online critique and social groups, as well as offering a virtual chapter that meets monthly in a chat room."

Photo courtesy of Marsha Ward

For the past 25 years, Marsha Ward has served as a leader and example to members of American Night Writers Association, the organization she founded to support the efforts of LDS women writers.

"The purpose of the organization is to encourage, assist, and motivate members to write, and, if they desire, to publish their works," she adds.

Marsha says ANWA helps LDS women writers by giving them a home base, a sisterhood, a warm, loving environment where they can flourish and grow.

"Recently, I heard it expressed this way by a new recruit: 'I'm not alone anymore.'"

Marsha, who currently serves as ANWA's Membership Secretary, says

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Nashville Tribute Band Releases New CD: *The Work*

Photo by Russ Dixon

The Nashville Tribute Band recently released *The Work: A Nashville Tribute to the Missionaries,* the bands third CD that pays tribute to the LDS tradition and heritage.

A thoughtful letter from an LDS missionary in New Jersey was the only spark needed for Nashville country singer and songwriter Jason Deere and a star-studded cast of country musicians to create the just-released CD, *The Work: A Nashville Tribute to the Missionaries.*

The new album, produced by the Nashville Tribute Band and distributed by R Legacy Entertainment, is a collection of 15 original songs celebrating everything from the jubilation of a mission call, to the strivings of long 15-hour days, heartfelt letters from home and the spiritual transformation that takes place in the mission field. "I Was Born" is already becoming a popular single from the CD.

To create the album, Deere worked with well-known LDS musicians, including Michael McLean, David Osmond, The Jets, Grammy-nominated keyboard player Dan Truman of Diamond Rio, and Emmy-nominated guitarist/composer Ron Saltmarsh, as well as Katherine Nelson, known for her starring role as Emma in the film *Emma Smith: My Story*, and the hot country trio Due West. The album also includes solos from well-known country singer Billy Dean, nephew to legendary country singer Jimmy Dean and gospel artist Gale Mayes.

Of *The Work*, Deere said, "I want the world to know what a culture of sending missionaries out into the world, two by two, means to us as a people. Most of these missionaries are 19 to 20 years old. They are forgetting themselves, learning to love other people and devoting their daily lives to prayer and scripture study. It is a remarkable time in a young person's life and I felt compelled to write about it."

Autobiographical sketches on the album, such as "Just for Me" and the "Hardest Thing I Ever Loved to Do" harken back to Deere's own mission to Las Vegas in the late 1980s.

Because of the influence McLean had during Deere's mission, Deere wanted McLean's creative involvement in the CD, so the two spent about a week together in Utah writing and developing songs. Their combined effort produced "Today is the Day," "Work," "The Only Prayer that Matters," and "Twilight of My Years."

Truman said Deere "has a relentlessness, an artistic passion" that is evident when they work together. Truman has been a part of two other Nashville Tribute Band albums that honor the LDS heritage: *Joseph* and *The Trek*. Besides this LDS trilogy, Deere has written songs for some of the biggest artists in Nashville, including a hit for Lady Antebellum that went platinum.

During a recent tour of the Western states, including a debut concert in Sandy, Utah, August 4, the Nashville Tribute Band has performed before large, enthusiastic audiences.

Jeremy Barron, director of Artist Management and Event Productions for R Legacy Entertainment, said in all of his years of music promotion nationally and internationally, "I've never seen anything sell so well. The shows have been well-attended and well-received."

The Work is available at LDS bookstores, www.nashvilletributeband.com and www.positivemusicanddownloads.com.

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From the Editor's Desktop

By Cecily Markland

Life and Death and Lavender

The mind works in interesting ways.

Just days ago, in a singular event, with my father's life hanging in the balance, I thought of lavender.

It happened after the initial terror had subsided only slightly.

I had watched my dad go into cardiac arrest, had seen the nurses scramble to start compressions, and had spent the next hour and a half waiting to hear if he was going to live or die. The answer came. He wasn't going to make it. Minutes later, came a different answer. They had managed to restore a pulse and he would possibly pull through after all.

That mixture of miracles and minor mayhem is fodder for a future column. For now, it's the lavender-thinking I wish to explore.

From somewhere, in the midst of that swirl of life and death and draining emotions came a memory and mindfulness that can only be explained as a loving, tender mercy—or what I may always remember as a lavender moment.

Who knows just where it came from, but in those moments of watching my dad fight for life, I remembered lavender…and a trip of a lifetime.

It wasn't anything fancy, really, just a simple road trip, with mom and daughter, celebrating her graduation and my excitement for all that lay ahead for her. Nothing fancy, that is, except the memories and the messages and the things that mean more than words can ever express. In terms of world travels, it wasn't that.

Just a few hours down the round, past a beautiful sight or two, my daughter and I headed for the hearth and hominess of the Heritage Inn in Snowflake. Picture, just beyond your own backyard, a wonderfully well-kept bed and breakfast, with more than just the comforts of home—crisp sheets, comfy rooms, refreshingly colorful gardens and a spirit of history and heritage. Throw in the friendly welcome of JoAnne and Craig Guderian and their perfect butter-y sweet, lemon-y succulent German pancakes, and a "place to stay" becomes an experience and the perfect setting for lavender moments.

In fact, it was against that backdrop that I first discovered lavender moments, when my daughter and I visited Red Rock Lavender farms, just a few miles away. There, scents and sights of lavender helped to strip away the world, speaking to my soul of the beauty of the earth, of growth, of relationships, of shared sensations. Just a simple walk among the fragrant, light-purple-studded plants evoked a bit of growth, a surge of gratitude, a greater sense of who I am.

I soon learned that "lavender moments" had little to do with the plant itself. The next morning, at the Snowflake Temple, it happened again, where sights and sounds and spirit helped to strip away the world, again speaking to my soul, of growth, of relationships, of shared sensations. A simple walk through those hallowed halls evoked a surge of gratitude, a greater sense of who I am.

Indeed, moments of lavender—moments of experiencing the true fragrance of life, the essence of what brings us joy—are what will later carry us, lift us, fill our souls and sustain us through struggles—even life and death kind of struggles.

Couple Serves 7th Mission
Continued from pg. 29

dren, 16 grandchildren and, now, 15 great grandchildren is hard, "they have been really, really supportive."

To other couples considering a mission, "Don't shortchange yourself. Go and try it," he says. "We have loved every minute of our missions. We've had some marvelous experiences and have made so many friends."

Note: The Mesa Temple Visitors' Center, at 525 East Main Street, is open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., seven days a week. Families and youth groups are welcome. Call 480-964-7164 for more information.

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"I was a stranger and you took me in"
— The Motto for this Chandler Family

By Stephanie Abney
The Beehive

When a Chinese foreign exchange student became stranded at the Phoenix Airport several years ago, Arizona native, Natalie Whitlock, received a call, asking if she could go pick him up and keep him for just a few days. She did. A few days turned into a few weeks and she and her husband, Dave, both agreed, "Well, we aren't going to give him back now." Thus began their journey of working with foreign exchange students.

The Whitlocks, of the Greenfield 2nd Ward, Chandler Arizona East Stake, are the parents of seven children, elementary school through college age. Dave is a history teacher at American Leadership Academy in Gilbert. Natalie is a professional writer.

She is also the Arizona Regional Director for an international student exchange program called "Education, Travel & Culture." It is a nonprofit student exchange and international educational organization, working under the Citizen Diplomacy Initiative of the U.S. Department of State.

"My job is basically two-fold: to find volunteer host families and provide them education and support, and to supervise and mentor the students while they are here. Our family personally has hosted teenagers from Germany, Brazil, France, Italy, Spain, China, Hong Kong, Norway and Turkey. We stay in touch with them all. It's kind of taken over our life, but we love it," says Natalie.

It's always a pleasant bonus for her when an LDS family opens their home to some of these students, she says. "One thing I always keep in mind is, they are coming anyway—so where better than in LDS homes? I have seen firsthand the tremendous difference it makes in the lives of these kids. Almost equally important can be the impact it has on our families, children, schools, and communities."

Although host families aren't allowed to directly proselytize, the students are strongly encouraged to participate in all family activities and that includes church services. Sister Whitlock says, "Just by living together for several months, families naturally share their values and culture, and with LDS families, their religion is a big part of that. In our personal experience, we've had students who were everything from staunch Catholic to complete Atheists. All of them attended church meetings with us regularly and were respectful and open to sharing our beliefs and

Continued on pg. 33

Photo by Alisa Figueroa

The Whitlock family attended the graduation of one of their foreign exchange students, Elise Leveraas, from Norway. She graduated on June 30, 2011, from Perry High School, Gilbert, Ariz. Pictured (L to R) are Thomas, Madelyn, William and Natalie Whitlock, Elise Leveraas, and Robert, David and Abigail Whitlock.

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I Was A Stranger
Continued from pg. 32

practices."

"One night, after prayer, a student in our home from Hong Kong was trying to figure out what god we were praying to. Every time I think of that experience, I feel such a deep gratitude for growing up with the simple knowledge that I have a real and loving Father in Heaven. I find the reality that there are still so many of His children that do NOT know this to be humbling," says Natalie.

She continues, "Another great thing about having an international 'family' is that—and my kids back me up on this—my children are more open, accepting, loving, etc., of peoples of other races, nationalities, religions and cultures—which I think is tremendously important, in their education and careers, in serving missions, and going forward in an increasingly global Church."

You can make a difference in the world by bringing "the world" to you, Natalie says. She is always on the lookout for suitable host families. She can be contacted at nwhitlock@edutrav.org or 480-722-1530.

American Night Writers
Continued from pg. 29

there are 265 ANWA members at the present time.

Sister Shumway says, "ANWA is every LDS woman writer's gem. I am grateful Marsha listened to the spirit 25 years ago. Her vision has allowed me to accomplish much more than I ever thought I could."

Many ANWA members are now published authors. "Janette Rallison has sold over a million of her young adult books. Aprilynne Pike, a former ANWA member, even made the New York Times Best Sellers list," says Melinda Sanchez, of the Gilbert Greenfield Stake and President of an ANWA chapter that meets once a month in Gilbert.

ANWA is the host of a yearly writers' conference. The next conference, "Time Out for Writers" is February 23 through 25, 2012, at the Hilton Hotel in Mesa. Editors from Deseret Book and The Ensign will speak, along with a number of national literary agents and authors. Writers will have the opportunity to pitch their manuscripts at the conference.

"ANWA's writers' conferences are amazing," says Sister Sanchez. "I learn so much about writing and have the opportunity to network with other writers."

The ANWA Writers Conference is open to the general public, not just members of ANWA. For more information about ANWA or to register for the 2012 Writers Conference, see ANWA-lds.com Registration for the conference opens October 1. Space is limited.

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LDS apps put the gospel (literally) in the palm of your hand

According to the LDS Church's website, lds.org, there is a significant trend toward the use of smartphone mobile devices in most countries around the world. The number of mobile Internet users is expected to pass desktop Internet users in the near future, and mobile device support for Internet browsing is increasing.

The website also states that the Church continues to enhance the video and audio experience for mobile users by increasing viewable Church media.

What does this mean to you? It means that through the use of mobile apps and Internet connectivity, the gospel is literally in the palm of your hand—for listening, watching, studying and sharing.

In this column, I will focus on apps that are available for your mobile device, including Apple, Android, BlackBerry and Palm. The first five are free and available through the Church's website or through your mobile device's app store. The rest can be downloaded for a minimal amount—check your app store to see if they are available for your device.

LDS Gospel Library features the scriptures, General Conference talks, Church magazines, teaching manuals, hymnbook, Children's Songbook and other publications such as "True to the Faith," "A Parent's Guide," "Church Handbook 2: Administering the Church" and "For the Strength of Youth." Gospel Library, available in all platforms, allows you to search, bookmark, annotate, link and highlight content.

The Mormon Channel is the official radio station of the LDS Church and with the app you can listen to and watch a variety of uplifting programs and messages. It offers gospel-oriented programming on parenting, self-reliance, improving marriage and other topics; interesting interviews with Church leaders and members who share their conversion stories; music of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir; and recordings from Church magazines, the scriptures and conference talks. The Mormon Channel is available in all platforms.

LDS Tools, available for Apple and Android, allows you to download ward and stake directory information to your phone, as well as scheduled ward events from the Church's new calen-

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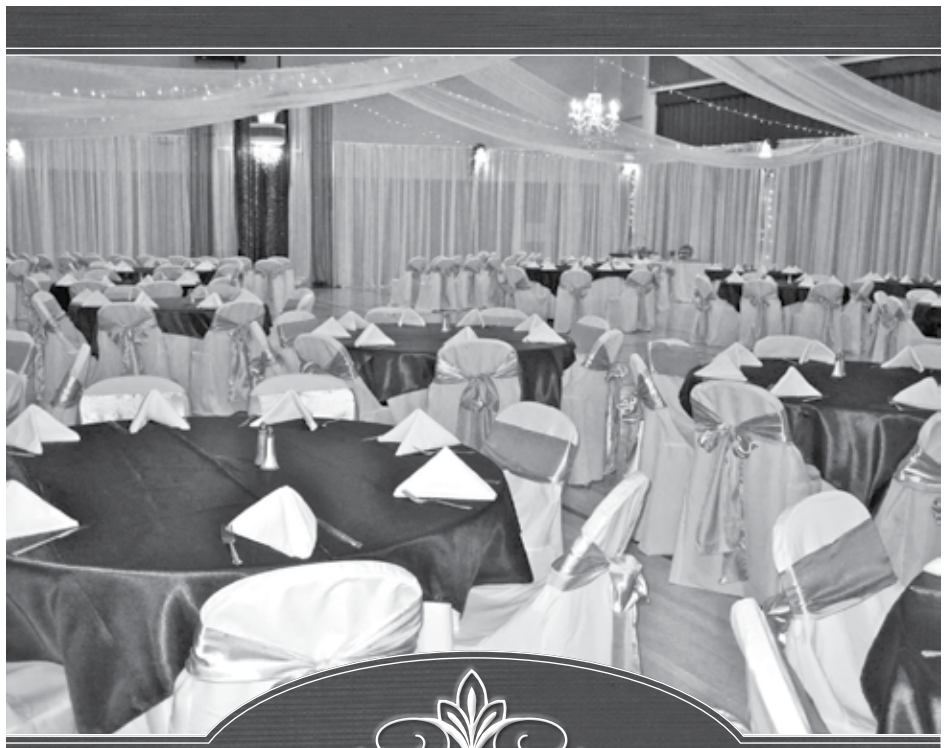

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Twin Trials and Triumphs
Continued from pg. 25

ent culture, while 'macheting' their way through tangled jungles of a very primitive country."

More than that, says Mary, the twins' story is distinctive in the way they dealt with adversity—everything from totaling a truck just two weeks before entering the Mission Training Center, to the "starvation, poverty, gun and knife attacks, witchcraft, hissing woman and exploding volcanoes" they were subjected to in the mission field.

Through it all, she says, the twins found "goodness in people enmeshed in those societal problems and learned to love them unconditionally while teaching the gospel of Jesus Christ."

Still, her task was monumental. As she sorted and selected stories, "I was praying every day about it," Mary says. "I would pray, 'Please let me do this so someone, even one person may read the book and be interested in the Church."

"I wouldn't say it was easy, but once I got started I really enjoyed doing it," she says.

To the first-year experiences of her grandsons, Mary added missionary stories from their good friends: Ben Halverson and Eliot (E.J.) Mason, who served in Brazil and Ashley Hovik, who served in the Ohio Cincinnati Mission.

She feels the book not only shows "the personality of all five of the kids," it demonstrates the workings of the Spirit in their lives and the lives of those they taught.

"When I was through, I felt I had done as good as I could," Mary says. Already she has heard about individuals who have read the book and want to read the Book of Mormon or learn more about the Church.

"Those are the real rewards," she says.

To obtain copies of *Twin Trials and Triumphs in Ecuador*, contact Mary Katzenbach at 480-759-2575 or mbkatz3@cox.net.

Cyber Surfing
Continued from pg. 34

daring system.

LDS Scripture Mastery, available for Apple, is the official app from the Church that helps users memorize scripture mastery verses as well as the Articles of Faith with flashcards and quizzes and keeps track of your high scores.

LDS Youth offers the latest content from youth.lds.org, including brief messages from the First Presidency, videos and music. LDS Youth is available for Apple.

An app called 16 Language LDS Scriptures SideBySide allows you to study the LDS triple combination side-by-side in various languages including Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Portuguese, French, German, Italian, Finnish, Norwegian, Danish, Dutch and Tongan.

LDS Children's Sing-Along has engaging photographs and a bouncing-ball to help children sing-along to songs from the Children's Songbook. There is a free version with 15 songs or pay for an upgraded version with more songs.

Child Scripture Stories allows readers to pick from the LDS Scripture Stories books—Old Testament, New Testament, Book of Mormon and Doctrine and Covenants—with pictures and stories. This app makes your mobile device function like a digital quiet book.

Editor's Note: This column is designed to provide Beehive readers with timesaving direction and ideas for safely and easily surfing the Internet. To suggest a topic for a future column or to share an interesting Web site with others, e-mail: 5adair@cox.net.

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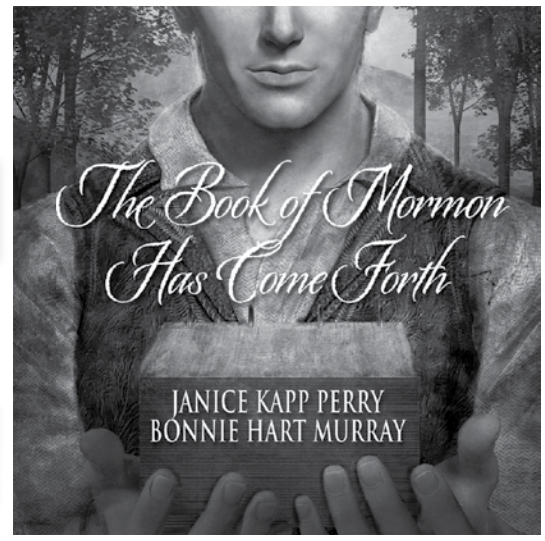

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In The Mommy Zone...

By Kristie Young Fairbanks

Growing Pains

Last week, I watched my oldest son graduate from high school in all the glory of traditional pomp and circumstance, alongside hundreds of other proud parents, siblings, and family members.

I sat there amongst the cheering crowd and the ear-piercing air horns, with frantic screams of graduate's names intermittently rupturing the excitement.

But, I sat in anxious apprehension. I had been dreading this night for months, knowing that it was another step towards my son's final transition into the next phase of his life and away from me, his mother.

I sat torn between my exhilaration for his future quests and my anxiety over the spreading of his inexperienced wings without me.

He stood among his classmates, with his forest green graduation gown gleaming in the setting sunlight, his blonde curly hair playfully escaping from his 2011 tasseled cap. I sat in utter disbelief, mulling over the fact that I was now joining the social ranks of those "elder" parents.

A flood of emotions surged through me. I couldn't sort it all out. I was proud of him and all of his accomplishments, yet apprehensive about his new and uncharted journey towards college and beyond. I was also uneasy about my new and uncharted journey without him.

I thought my heart would burst as I watched the hundreds of graduates stream in, one by one, and take their seats. My eyes stung with tears as his name was read from the pulpit. As he clicked his heels confidently together, holding his prized diploma high in the air, I realized that my time left with him was truly waning and there was nothing I could do about it.

Where did the time go? His senior year flew by with cross country and track meets, scholarship and college applications, Prom and Homecoming, band concerts and state festivals.

What's worse is that today is his 18th birthday. I desperately want to stall time, to make it stand still, but I know its rhythmic tick-tock is out of my hands. When I signed up to be a parent 18 years ago, I knew this day would come eventually. But, I wished it hadn't come so quickly.

In a few short weeks, we will drop him off at the college dorms. He will be totally on his own, with the freedom to sink or swim. I desperately hope that we taught him enough, that we loved him enough, that he grew spiritually and not just physically while in our home all those years.

I feel somewhat slighted by Father Time, but I know that he can't stay my little boy forever. In my mind's eye, I see my son, freckle-faced and fuzzy-headed, reaching out to me with those chunky toddler arms. Now, I see him reaching out those same arms to face his new adventures, eeking out an original life existence of his own, discovering and embracing the world in his own meaningful way, in a place where I cannot follow.

It is difficult for me to watch my first-born child spread his wings and soar, upwards and onwards, away from me and towards his new life. But all these stinging growing pains are nothing new. Mothers have been severing their taut apron strings for generations.

So, I guess I'd better start thinning mine, my strings are thick with years of carefully cultivated growth. If I whittle them down a little at a time, then it might not hurt so much.

Shedding a few pounds of stocky apron strings will begin the transformation, for both of us. It's what growing pains are all about.

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Rhyme and Reason

By Linda Turley-Hansen

Immigration Issues Test Arizona Latter-Day Saints

Immigration political issues could tear the LDS membership apart; but, as I see it, there is no need for discord.

Apostle James E. Faust, in March 1975, quoted Brigham Young on the matter of personal inspiration (Journal of Discourses 9:150):

"'I am more afraid that this people have so much confidence in their leaders that they will not inquire of themselves of God, whether they are led by Him… Let every man and woman know, by the whispering of the Spirit of God to themselves, whether their leaders are walking in the path the Lord dictates, or not.' In this manner, no one need be deceived."

I trust that admonition. I also trust that each of us has a life's mission. Some may appear in conflict with the Lord's purposes, but among those who are faithful, I know that is not the case. Our God knowingly directs all His players.

When young, my mother would counsel her children who wanted to micro-manage their siblings: "Don't worry about what Bud's doing—you worry about yourself and what you're supposed to do." Thus, a motherly reminder—we each have our responsibilities.

Recently, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints clarified its stand on the issue of illegal immigration. (See www.lds.org). The church has a massive job to accomplish. Its success speaks for itself. And, in turn, each of us throughout the world, work to fulfill our life's purposes.

Here in Arizona, dedicated state legislators do their best to fulfill their oaths to uphold the Federal and State Constitutions and the laws of our land. Under siege, they courageously lead the nation on states-rights issues and address the burgeoning problems of open borders.

It must be noted that in May, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of Arizona's Employer Sanction Law (2007). Chief Justice Roberts said "Arizona has taken the route least likely to cause tension with federal law." Soon to be heard will be SB 1070 (passed in 2010).

Civil order creates civilized countries. Murders, drugs, illegal arms, human trafficking and the illegal use of overwhelmed social systems are threats to that civility. Further, there are factions which would undermine our national sovereignty. Enforcement of laws is needed, but so is compassion.

Those gentle souls, caught in the awful web of illegal status, are in a terrible place, especially because they are targets of evildoers who use them for their political or criminal purposes. Tragically, outside of the law, it's highly difficult for illegal families to be protected.

The Church urges government away from targeting one race and, in the course of enforcement, to exercise compassion. I see no conflict with that admonition nor with the efforts of legislators to protect their states by making laws in defense of its borders and identification of its residents.

We reside in a temporal condition. The Church has its job to do, as does Arizona's legislature.

Both can succeed. It's an abstract concept, but, then again, the Lord's work is "wondrous."

Readers may contact Linda Turley-Hansen at turleyhansen@gmail.com.

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The medical approach to sciatica is usually to treat its symptoms with pain-killers, muscle relaxers, and physical therapy, although in many cases even strong painkillers bring little or no relief. Bed rest is also prescribed for sciatica, yet there is little objective data to show it works. In fact there is increasing evidence that it is ineffective for low back pain as well as sciatica.

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One Man's DREAM

Becomes a Tradition of Customer Service and Caring

By Tina Scott
The Beehive

Photo by Tina Scott

Owner Rick Biederbeck has spearheaded the tremendous growth of Spencer's TV & Appliance, while maintaining a foundation of personal service and customer satisfaction.

Richard Biederbeck moved to Arizona from Minneapolis, Minnesota, with his family in 1973 with the dream of owning his own appliance store.

"Dad borrowed money against his car to buy Spencer's Appliance store in Mesa," says his son, Rick Biederbeck. They liked the name Spencer's, so they kept it.

Rick started working at the store in 1980. "Dad retired in 1996. I don't know about a continuing legacy," he says of his taking over after his dad retired, "but I'm giving it my best shot."

Rick's efforts to do well are noticed by his employees. "He's an incredible man," says DJ Pratt, sales associate. "He's had 35 foster kids and adopted two kids besides raising three of his own. I've never worked for anyone like him."

Rick realizes that it's often easier to go to the mall or other places to buy the same products that they offer, but he believes that customers come to Spencer's rather than the large chain stores for several reasons. "We have to be more competitive and keep our prices lower," he says. "At other stores you'll find poor service or none at all. Our sales staff have been in business an average of 10 years each and can answer questions; and we do our best to take care of problems and issues that come up. It's not only a matter of a good price, but taking care of it after the fact."

Spencer's sells all major kitchen and laundry appliances, televisions, audio and video systems, they're the third largest Simmons mattress dealer in Arizona; and they sell water purification systems such as water softeners and reverse osmosis.

"We do a little bit of everything," says Rick. "We actually manufacture the reverse osmosis systems ourselves, and that's a pretty big part of our business."

Back in the 1990s, former Phoenix Suns basketball star, Danny Ainge used to do television ads for Spencer's. "He came in at the recommendation of a friend," recalls Rick. "We made him a good deal on a VCR. [Danny] said, 'It's like having a friend in the business.' I told him that would be a good slogan for us, and we've used that ever since."

Spencer's TV & Appliance has grown from one store, to five in the Phoenix metro area. They have a sixth location near their Mesa store that sells refurbished and scratch-and-dent appliances. "We have around 160 employees," says Rick. That doesn't include the service department or their reverse osmosis staff.

Not only has Spencer's grown in number of stores since 1973, their business has grown as well. "All the locations together do four-times the business every day than the company did per year when we took it over," says Rick. "The Valley's been pretty good to us."

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LeSueur Car Company

Keeps Customers Coming Back

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

After 36 years, LeSueur Car Company has had a face-lift, featuring an all-new 6,400-square-foot showroom and display area, improved parking area and state-of-the-art shop.

"We're pretty excited. It's something I've wanted to do for some time," says owner Warren LeSueur. "We're now able to give our customers and employees a 'cooler,' better overall experience," he says.

From their new facility, LeSueur Car Company continues to maintain the good value, top-quality inventory and excellent customer service they have been known for since Warren and his wife, Carolyn, started the company 36 years ago.

Today, they maintain an A+ rating from the Better Business Bureau and a 5.0 rating at DealerRater.com, where countless positive testimonials are posted.

Located near where Warren's great grandfather settled with the early pioneers, LeSueur Car Company provides "new car standards at used car prices."

"We go all over the country looking for the best used cars to buy," Warren says, who, himself, has been a buyer for 36 years. "We look for cars with low mileage that still have warranties."

"If we don't have it, we can get it," he says. They specialize in VW, Toyota, Audi, Kia, Hyundai, Volvo, Nissan, Mini Cooper, Honda and BMW.

In fact, Warren says,g "All the cars that 'Consumer Reports' recently said were the best, I had already chosen for the lot."

Because the site is on a county island, customers pay no city sales tax, saving them two percent or more. Plus, customers can visit www.usedvwaudi.com for a $300-off coupon.

Most of LeSueur's cars are still under manufacturers' warranties and extended warranties are offered on all cars. LeSueur's offers top-quality service and repairs by ASE-certified technicians.

"We are full service, so we can do anything from painting to tinting windows to all the maintenance and repairs. We have the lowest shop rates in town and we can work on all makes and models," Warren says. He notes that a 10 percent discount on repairs for cars purchased from LeSueur's.

Photo by Ryan Kesler

At LeSueur Car Company, customers find the excellent value of "new car standards at used car prices," and a knowledgeable and customer-service oriented staff, including (l to r) Ryan LeSueur, Kris LeSueur, Steven LeSueur, James LeSueur, Ryan Biggs and Joe Grimes.

At the core of their courteous and knowledgeable staff are Warren and Carolyn, who still run LeSueur Car Company; their sons and long-term employees, Kris, James and Steven; nephew, Ryan LeSueur; son-in-law Joey Grimes and Ryan Biggs.

"They are all Eagle Scouts. We have our own Eagle's nest," Warren laughs.

Also, "we have stressed education with our staff and encourage our guys to get degrees and further their education." Most have graduated from college or are working on it.

LeSueur Car Company, at 1109 E. Curry Road in Tempe, can be reached by calling 480-968-6611. Or, LeSueur's has "an amazing Web presence as well." Visit LeSueur Car Company on Facebook; read testimonials at dealerrater.com; or, from their site at www.usedvwaudi.com "take a virtual test drive or, from there, link to YouTube for complete descriptions of the cars."

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Addiction Recovery Seminar Helps LDS Addicts, Their Families and Church Leaders

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Reveille Mini-Camp is a one-day seminar and recovery experience for those struggling with addition and for their family members, helpers and church leaders as well as for counselors and therapists.

The seminar is designed specifically for the LDS addict, especially those who have struggled to find healing or have experienced treatment failure in the past. It brings understanding, gives direction to recovery and healing and imparts the skills and tools that make recovery possible.

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Presented by Roger Stark, recovery addict and addiction counselor, much of the curriculum of the seminar comes from Roger's book, The Waterfall Concept: A blueprint for addiction recovery. The Reveille Mini Camp will be held in Mesa at the New Horizon School for the Performing Arts, 446 E. Broadway (l/2 block east of Mesa Drive on Broadway), on November 5, 2011, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, visit www.waterfallconcept.org.

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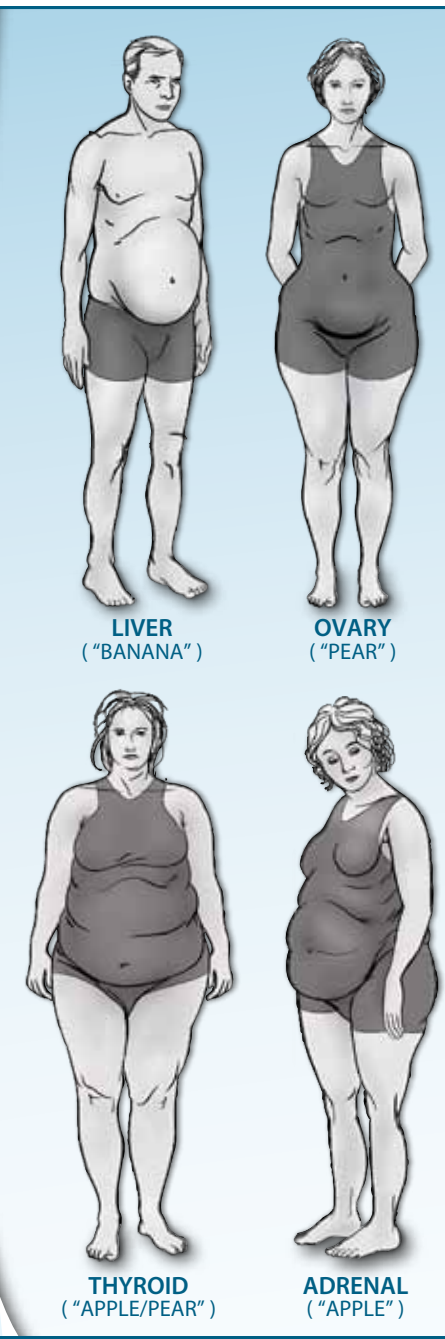

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Newly called Mesa Arizona Temple Presidency

Photo by John Power, Biltmore Photo

Their hope is that all who come to the temple will be able to enjoy the peace and joy available there, say the recently called presidency of the Mesa Arizona Temple--(l to r) Neil Christensen, first counselor, his wife, Linda, assistant to the matron; R. Gordon Porter, temple president, his wife, Susan, temple matron; and J Brent Hatch, second counselor, and his wife, Renae, assistant to the matron.